

Austria	Sch 20	Denmark	DKK 100	France	FFr 100	Germany	DM 100	Greece	Dr 100	Ireland	Ir£ 100	Italy	Lira 100	Japan	Yen 100	Netherlands	Fl 100	Portugal	Pes 100	Spain	Pes 100	Sweden	Kr 100	Switzerland	Sfr 100	UK	£ 100	USA	\$ 100
Belgium	Bfr 100	Canada	Cdn\$ 100	Finland	Fmk 100	Hong Kong	HK\$ 100	India	Rs 100	Israel	NIS 100	South Africa	Rand 100	Taiwan	Nt\$ 100	West Germany	DM 100	Yugoslavia	Dinar 100										

No. 30,163

World news Business summary

W German Ford diplomats expelled from Iran profits surge by 29%

Iran ordered two senior West German diplomats to leave the country within three days after a broadcast on German television which, it said, mocked Islam and Iran's leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The expulsions cast an immediate cloud over intense efforts in Bonn to free two West Germans being held hostage by pro-Iranian terrorists in Beirut.

Iran is West Germany's biggest customer in the Middle East. German exports there totalled DM 3.7bn (\$1.8bn) last year and Tehran's importance in resolving the Beirut hostage issue is regarded as critical in Bonn. Page 20

Hanoi reshuffle

Vietnam announced 13 ministers had been fired in a sweeping cabinet reshuffle that brings a new generation of reform-minded leaders into high positions in the Government. Page 20

Koryagin release

Dissident Soviet psychiatrist Anatoly Koryagin was to be released from Kiev prison yesterday or today, the Foreign Ministry said. The case of Jewish dissident Iosif Begun was likely to be resolved "in a positive way." Page 2

East-West talks

Diplomats and military experts from Nato member states and the Warsaw Pact began contacts in Vienna aimed at holding a new East-West conference on reducing conventional forces in Europe. Page 2

Airlines competition

Prospects for greater competition among European airlines inched closer yesterday at a meeting of EEC transport ministers. Page 2

Suspect nominated

A jailed separatist guerrilla suspect was among four candidates nominated for Friday's election in the Basque Parliament to choose a premier in Spain's northern region. Page 2

Soviet elections

Elections are to be held under new, more democratic procedures advocated by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev in some areas of the Soviet Union later this year, Tass news agency said.

Patriarch's haul

Israel said gold and heroin worth \$1m had been found in the car of Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theodoros I after it crossed from Jordan to the West Bank on Friday. He claimed diplomatic immunity.

Sri Lanka killings

Fifty-seven Sri Lankan rebels were killed in 24 hours, mostly in clashes between the largest separatist group and a rival faction.

Reforms defended

China's new Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang said the country's reforms and open policy were not under threat from the drive against Western ideas. Page 4

Nobel Minister

Dr Yevgeny Chazov, 57, co-winner of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize, was appointed Soviet Health Minister.

Illness threat

One in four people in industrialised countries is liable to suffer from mental illness during his or her working life, according to a study by the International Labour Organisation.

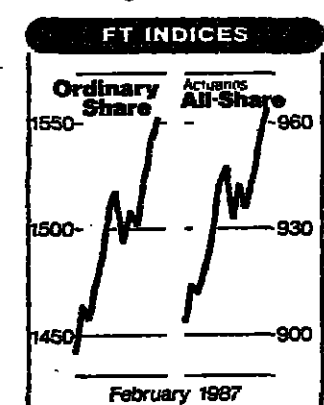
University closed

Police surrounded one of Barcelona's three universities after its rector ordered it closed to end two weeks of student protests.

FORD MOTOR Company's profits jumped 29 per cent to \$3.3bn in 1986, overtaking General Motors earnings for the first time since 1974, and slightly exceeding even the buoyant expectations of stock-market analysts.

The higher profits, equivalent to \$12.32 a share against \$9.09 in 1985, are in marked contrast to the weaker earnings reported earlier this month by Chrysler and GM. Page 21

WENDY'S International, third largest US hamburger chain, plunged into loss last year because of the high costs of a restructuring programme designed to refocus the company on its original hamburger business. Page 21



LONDON: Optimism about next month's budget pushed share prices to record levels again. The FT-SE 100 index added 16.2 to 1,942.0 and the FT Ordinary index 10.2 to 1,552.4. Gilt was little changed. Page 40

TOKYO stock market recovered its strength when NIT hit a new high. The Nikkei average jumped 100.41 to 19,837.93. Page 40

WALL STREET: The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 54.14 at 2,331.49. Page 40

GOLD fell \$2 on the London bullion market to close at \$395.25. It also fell in Zurich to \$396.25 (\$397.15). In New York the April Comex settlement was \$394.90. Page 32

DOLLAR closed in New York at DM 1.8195, Sfr 1.5365, Ffr 6.0575 and ¥153.40. It fell in London to DM 1.8140 (DM 1.8220), to Ffr 6.0450 (Ffr 6.0675), to Sfr 1.5310 (Sfr 1.5400), and to ¥153.15 (¥153.55). On Bank of England figures the dollar's index fell 0.4 to 103.8. Page 33

STERLING closed in New York at \$1.5506. It rose in London to \$1.5525 (\$1.5515), to DM 2.76 (DM 2.7675), to Ffr 6.2650 (Ffr 6.27), to Sfr 2.2450 (Sfr 2.24), and to ¥234.75 (¥233.25). The pound's exchange rate index rose 0.3 to 69.0. Page 33

COMINCO, debt laden Canadian mining group which lost its independence to a consortium of three companies led by Teck Corporation late last year, is planning to spin off a CTS exploration company tentatively named Cominex.

MONTEDISON of Italy and Hercules of the US expect to realise proceeds of between \$350m and \$400m from the flotation of 20 per cent of the equity of Himont, the joint venture polypropylene company. Page 23

WORLD BANK will meet the IMF and the Zambia Government next week to seek alternatives to the foreign exchange auction system suspended four weeks ago. Page 4

ZANUSSI, leading Italian home appliance maker controlled by Electrolux of Sweden, emerged from five years of losses in 1986 to achieve a gross net profit of more than £130m (\$23m). Page 23

GOTABANKEN, Swedish bank, has been forced to make heavy provisions against doubtful loans to Refat El-Sayed and Fermenta, the Swedish chemicals group, which have been hit by the bank's profits. Page 21

US credibility lost over Iran arms sale, says Hussein

By Roger Matthews and Andrew Gowers in Amman

KING HUSSEIN of Jordan, the West's most consistent Arab ally, said yesterday that the US had lost all credibility in the Middle East as a result of its arms sales to Iran.

The King said he was "more than shocked" by revelations coming out of Washington and also saw no sign of US willingness to help resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute.

As a result, he felt there was little purpose in taking up an invitation to visit the US for talks with President Ronald Reagan next month and was inclined to seek closer defence co-operation with Europe.

The King's remarks, in an interview with the Financial Times, were his first detailed public statement on the US overtures to Iran. Jordan has backed Iran's enemy, Iraq, throughout the Gulf war, now well into its seventh year.

"The US has lost its credibility in this area totally. What has been revealed is diametrically opposed to every assurance I received. I had been told that the Americans would do anything in their power to prevent the supply of arms to Iran and thus the continuation of the (Gulf) war," the King said.

"The last thing that one ever expected was that the US would augment the military machine of Iran, which has refused to respond to any call to end this war" he added.

King Hussein said the US supplies revealed so far represented "a very dangerous development" in view of the balance of forces between Iraq and Iran. He implied that they had had a measurable impact in the latest Iranian offensive towards Basra, Iraq's second-largest city.

Although the King was confident that Iraq could withstand further Iranian offensives, he revealed that moderate Arabs had no agreed response to a possible military breakthrough by Tehran. "Jordan is prepared in its very limited way to respond. I have been calling for a contingency plan for years. But until now I don't think there is one."

King Hussein said he had spoken "very, very frankly" to President Hafiz al-Assad of Syria in Damascus last week about the latter's continuing support for Iran in the war.

The Jordanian monarch was equally caustic about the US position on the Arab-Israeli dispute, in spite of recent suggestions that Washington might be preparing to play a more active role in setting up an international peace conference.

"I have been assured they are interested in resolving the Arab-Israeli problem. But I haven't seen any manifestation of that," he said.

Jordan has been campaigning for an international conference, involving interested parties from the Middle East and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. But the idea is being



King Hussein of Jordan

vehemently resisted by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Israel and the US want King Hussein to enter into direct negotiations - though the US has said recently that it would be prepared to countenance a conference as a prelude to bilateral talks.

The King also said he would step up his efforts to buy arms from sources other than Washington, including the Soviet Union, but especially Western Europe. US plans to sell Jordan about \$1.9bn worth of weapons and aircraft were withdrawn just over a year ago in the face of stiff Israeli and congressional opposition.

"We have not asked for any arms and will not ask for any arms from the US," he said. "I have really every inclination to look at the possibility of greater co-operation with Europe in the area of defence requirements."

The King also sought to dampen speculation that the arrival in Amman at the weekend of a senior member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) implied a political rapprochement between Jordan and the PLO leadership.

He said Mr Khalil Al-Wazir, the organisation's effective number two, had come to discuss the disbursement of Arab aid to Palestinians on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza strip.

However, political co-operation could not be resumed until the PLO shifted its position on UN resolutions, implicitly recognising Israel's right to exist in peace behind its pre-1967 borders.

The PLO's refusal to accept these was the cause of a breach between the King and Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, a year ago.

Moscow ready to reveal chemical weapon stocks

By William Dullforce in Geneva

THE SOVIET UNION yesterday declared its readiness to disclose the locations of its chemical weapons stocks for the first time and to submit to systematic international verification of their closure and eventual destruction.

Western negotiators acknowledged that, although they fall well short of meeting US conditions, the new Soviet proposals tabled to the 40-nation UN conference on disarmament represent an important shift in Moscow's position and brighten hopes for agreement on a treaty banning chemical weapons.

Mr Yuri Nazarkin, the chief Soviet negotiator, proposed that within 30 days of a treaty's coming into force all states should indicate the precise location of each of their storage facilities.

Previously the Soviet Union had not even admitted publicly that it held chemical weapons, although its western estimates put its stocks at between 150,000 tonnes and 800,000 tonnes and the US Defence Department believes it has identified some 39 storage sites. The US listed the locations of all its sites last July and challenged Moscow to follow suit.

US plans to send envoy to Europe

The US plans to send an envoy to Europe within the next few weeks for "real consultations" with allies over its plans to deploy the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), the so-called Star Wars system, writes Our Washington Staff. The White House yesterday attempted to calm its allies by denying it had formally proposed to the Soviet Union breaking the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty in order to deploy the first phase of SDI.

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, said on Monday that the US had made the proposal.

He said the proposal was "a pretty useful development," a US diplomat conceded.

The Soviets accepted on-site inspection of facilities in principle last April, but until yesterday, however, they had been insisting that inspection should be limited to the site for the destruction of stocks and to the one production plant which would be permitted under the treaty.

Yesterday Mr Nazarkin proposed that the treaty should provide for "systematic international verification of closed storage facilities with permanent use of instruments." It has recently been suggested in Geneva that advances in technology make possible the use of chemical-sniffing instruments to trace elements found in most chemical weapons.

UK plans to limit foreign buying of bank stakes

BY DAVID LASCELLES, BANKING EDITOR, IN LONDON

STRONGER POWERS to control foreign shareholdings in UK banks are to be sought by the British Government. They will be put forward by the Treasury as amendments to the Banking Bill which gets its third and final reading in the House of Commons tomorrow.

Mr Ian Stewart, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, proposed yesterday that foreigners should not be allowed to buy controlling interests in UK banks - defined as 15 per cent or more - unless UK banks have similar access to the buyer's home banking market.

At the Treasury's direction, the Bank of England would be empowered to object to the acquisition of shareholdings in such cases and, if necessary either block the voting rights on the shares being bought or require divestment.

Under another amendment put forward yesterday but foreboded by Mr Stewart last week, anyone acquiring a stake of 5 per cent in a UK bank would have to notify the Bank through the Bank of England.

Continued on Page 20

UK Government seeks to limit foreign buying of bank stakes

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Continued on Page 20

Editorial comment: Page 18; Lex, Page 20



Support for Brian Mulroney's Government has plunged to fewer than one in four voters ahead of today's budget, Page 3

CANADIAN QUANDARY: PRUNE THE DEFICIT OR CULTIVATE THE VOTER

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Beirut engulfed by intense faction fighting

By Nora Boustany in Beirut

THE MOSLEM sector of Beirut was engulfed in the worst fighting for more than a year yesterday as opposing factions fought for control of a strategic swathe separating the city from Palestinian refugee camps.

At least 24 people were killed and 125 wounded as a new alliance of communists and left-wing Moslem militias fought against the Islamic Shite Amal movement in 24 hours of continuous fighting.

One Lebanese Red Cross worker was killed and two other rescuers wounded while trying to evacuate the wounded.

Although the fighting yesterday was sparked by bickering over contested office space which the Amal fighters have gained control of, the escalation unveiled mounting and inevitable opposition to the domination of the Amal movement in Beirut.

Hundreds of Druze combatants of the PSP led by Mr Walid Jumblat, the Druze leader, joined forces with Communist Party regulars to drive out Shia Amal fighters from strongholds in the Corniche Mazraa and Tariq Jeddideh quarters at dusk on Monday.

The Mazraa and Jeddideh zone, an extension of the seafloor corniche into mainly Sunni neighbourhoods bordering besieged Palestinian shanty towns and refugee centres, shook to the sound of 122mm shells and rocket-propelled grenades.

Scar-faced Druze militiamen poured out into the Hamra and Musetteh districts to defend key positions, and battles raged around the Saroulla cinema theatre and the deserted Commodore Hotel.

Col Ghazi Kanaan, Syria's military intelligence chief in Lebanon, rushed to Beirut yesterday with his top aides for a meeting with senior PSP and Amal officials in a bid to stem the fighting.

But, despite declaration of a ceasefire at dusk, sporadic gunfire was still heard after nightfall. "This battle will not end before Amal is killed out of West Beirut," one PSP fighter said. "We are all joining the fight against them. They have no friends left."

In turn, the Shia Amal movement lashed out against the Lebanese Communist Party and the Druze PSP and accused the Palestinian guerrilla movement of complicity in this latest offensive. The chief military spokesman of Amal, Mr Tareq Ibrahim, charged that Mr Jumblat was striving to reinstate the defunct "National Movement," a former alliance of Moslem, leftist and Palestinian groups funded by the PLO and, among other Arab states, Libya.

The PLO's refusal to accept these was the cause of a breach between the King and Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, a year ago.

It is understood that most of the day's stores will be sold later.

The cash tender offer, recommended by the Cyclops board, tops a \$332m bid made earlier this month by Audio/Visual Associates, a US retailer with a market capitali-

Conrail sell-off price may miss \$1.7bn target

By Anatole Kaletsky in New York

CONRAIL, the state-owned US railway which was created after the bankruptcy of Penn Central Railroad in 1974, is to be privatised next month, at a price which may fall well below the target of \$1.7bn set by Congress last October.

Conrail, known formerly as Consolidated Rail Corporation, announced yesterday that it had registered 58.75m new shares with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The price of the shares will range from a minimum of \$22 to a maximum of \$26, depending on market conditions at the time of issue, according to the SEC filing.

This would value the federal Government's 85 per cent stake in Conrail at \$1.29bn to \$1.53bn. Despite the lower-than-expected price range the share sale, which is expected to take place in late March, will be the largest initial public offering ever launched on Wall Street.

Of the 58.75m shares, \$2m will be sold on the domestic market and 6.75m through a syndicate of underwriters in Europe. The 15 per cent of Conrail not owned by the Government is held by employees.

The public offering, for which a date has not yet been set, will end nearly two years of debate in Congress about how to return Conrail to the private sector and recoup at least a part of the taxpayer's money which went into the company.

In total the Government contributed about \$7.7m to the Conrail system, which was assembled in its present form in 1976 from the remains of six bankrupt north-eastern railroads and did not return to profitability until 1981.

In the Conrail Privatisation Act, passed by Congress in October 1986, a target of \$1.7bn was set for the proceeds of the public offering, with another \$300m to be paid to the US Treasury out of Conrail's cash reserves in exchange for cancellation of government debts.

This price target was set in part because of a \$1.9bn takeover offer made for Conrail by the Norfolk Southern Railway.

This offer was turned down by Congress, despite support from the Reagan Administration. There were doubts at the time of the legislation about the feasibility of achieving the \$1.7bn target for the Government's Conrail stake, partly because of the tougher-than-expected tax treatment written into the Act. Since then, Conrail has revealed a sharp drop in earnings during the second half of 1986.

In setting a price range for the issue, which is lead-managed by six of Wall Street's most powerful investment banking firms, these disappointing results appear to have more than offset the surge in US equity prices since last October.

Dixons in \$384m bid for US group

By Christopher Parkes in London and William Hall in New York

DIXONS GROUP, Britain's leading electrical retailer, yesterday bid for a stake in the US home entertainment and appliances market with a \$384m offer for Cyclops Corporation of Pittsburgh.

If the bid succeeds, the Cyclops steelmaking and other industrial interests will be sold to MSL Acquisition, an affiliate of Allegheny Corporation, for \$110m cash.

This will leave Dixons with 119 large electrical retail stores, trading \$150, and 11 Busy Beaver do-it-yourself outlets for an estimated net consideration of \$381m.

Last year the Cyclops retail businesses recorded sales of \$546m and pre-tax profits of \$24.9m.

It is understood that most of the day's stores will be sold later.

The cash tender offer, recommended by the Cyclops board, tops a \$332m bid made earlier this month by Audio/Visual Associates, a US retailer with a market capitali-

sation less than a quarter of that of Dixons.

Cyclops shares traded above the Dixons offer price early yesterday morning, but Wall Street specialists doubted whether any other bids would emerge. Audio/Video refused to comment.

A successful takeover will give Dixons, which controls 20 per cent of the UK electrical goods market, a small but significant share of the \$40bn a year US trade.

The \$150 chain is one of a small group of specialists, known as "power retailers," which have developed a new retailing sector in large stores.

The Dixons offer is being partly financed by a rights issue of convertible securities - 30 per cent payable initially and 70 per cent payable if the tender offer is completed. This will raise about £18m.

Men and matters: Page 18; Lex, Page 20; Background, Page 26

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EUROPEAN NEWS

EEC narrows gap on easing airline curbs

BY WILLIAM DAWKINS IN BRUSSELS

PROSPECTS FOR greater competition among European airlines inched closer yesterday at an informal meeting of EEC transport ministers.

The meeting ended with member states still split over a British-inspired proposal for the removal of excessively tight conditions on discount and deep discount fares, but with broad majority acceptance of the need for more liberal capacity sharing and competition on established routes.

Mr John Moore, UK Transport Minister, who initiated Britain's recent presidency of the EEC, said last night: "I am a little happier, but not content," though the Commission was unable to share even that moderate level of optimism.

He said that Belgium, which took over the chairmanship of the EEC at the turn of the year, had given "very clear support" for the compromise package.

Much of the meeting had been taken up by suggestions from the six member states traditionally opposed to lifting restrictions on discount fares that the present set of conditions should simply be replaced by new conditions.

One suggestion, later withdrawn, was that deep discount fares should not be permitted for passengers aged between 25

East, West discuss basis for troop cut talks

BY PATRICK BLUM IN VIENNA

NATO AND Warsaw Pact representatives met yesterday in Vienna for their first meeting to discuss a framework and mandate for new negotiations on reducing conventional forces in Europe.

Mr Yuri Kashiev, the chief Soviet representative and head of the Soviet delegation at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) also taking place in Vienna,

said the hour-long talks had allowed a "useful exchange of views."

Representatives of the 16 separate talks which lasted for another hour. After the meeting Mr Stephen Ledogar, the deputy leader of the US mission, said in Brussels that he was "encouraged" by the talks.

An invitation for a second meeting is expected "within days." Yesterday's talks follow a Nato decision last December to open discussions with the Warsaw Pact to examine the possibility of establishing a new forum for reducing conventional forces across Europe.

These would supersede the 13-year-old but deadlocked Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions (MBFR) talks, which cover only

forces in the central European theatre.

Negotiations or a new forum are likely to prove difficult because of disagreements within the Western alliance about how they should proceed.

Nato wants parallel but separate talks between the two alliances on force reduction and between the 35 nations involved in the CSCE process on confidence building measures.

This process is regarded as unsatisfactory by France, which objects to "bloc to bloc" negotiations as well as by the neutral and non-aligned nations who wish to be more closely involved.

The Warsaw Pact for its part also favours holding the talks within the CSCE process and with the participation of the neutral and non-aligned nations.

Countless problems in counting W Germans

BY Peter Bruce in Bonn

THE NUMBER of state-funded hospital beds in Bavaria is a multiple of how many people the Bavarian government thinks are in the state. Now, if there were a million fewer people in the whole of West Germany than the 61m the authorities think there are, then Bavaria would probably "lose" about 180,000 inhabitants.

That would leave it with about 1,300 hospital beds too many, costing DM 70m (£25m) a year to maintain.

It is 16 years since the West Germans last counted their numbers. A lot of federal or state planning is being done by the Federal Statistics Bureau, which says that their population estimate could be 1m out either way.

An attempt to count their numbers in 1983 collapsed after the Constitutional Court censured the census law then did not stop individual census data being passed on to other authorities. Another effort is to be made, after much refining of the law, on May 25.

There is trouble already, however. The radical, environmentalist party, the Greens, are calling for a boycott of the census.

The Greens argue that there is no certainty that information given in the census will remain confidential. "Only an empty, untouched questionnaire is a safe questionnaire," they say.

The other, establishment, Bundestag parties say the data will be secure and insist that without census soon it will become impossible to make forward-looking policy.

Mr Hans Engelhard, the Justice Minister, calls the Green boycott "the most outrageous, unparalleled act in federal parliamentary history." For his measure, he says it is illegal.

The legality or otherwise of a boycott remains to be tested. What is certain is that for fastidious West Germans, not knowing for certain how many people are in it, or how many travel to work by train, or how many buildings there are, it has become the demographic equivalent of an unscratchable itch.

Mr Egon Hoelder, president of the statistics bureau, claims that while "it would be really good if all citizens join in, no way is the whole thing (the census) going to be made worthless if a few per cent drop out."

The Greens, though, have just won more than 8 per cent of the vote in a national election. A boycott of that size would hurt.

The Government also has to reckon with the possibility that many local authorities—the people who actually do the counting—will not have their hearts in it. Bonn is offering up to DM 10 per person counted to cover municipal costs, but many cities claim it is going to cost DM 15-DM 20.

The reform process is scheduled to cost DM 715.7m, but that is bound to increase. Such is the lack of interest, that many local authorities are having to offer overtime wages for the day's work.

MEPs settle conflict over budget with member states

BY TIM DICKSON IN STRASBOURG

THE European Parliament's key budget committee yesterday agreed to settle its differences with member states over the Community's 1987 spending plans. The decision—likely to be endorsed by the full session of Parliament this afternoon or tomorrow—sets the scene for today's much awaited announcement by Mr Jacques Delors, European Commission President, of radical new ideas to sort out the Community's long-term finances.

So far this year the Community has been operating under a system of emergency financing. The Parliament deliberately voted to exceed the so-called "maximum rate" limiting the growth of non-farm spending.

The question not for the first time was how MEPs' aspirations to spend more on programmes such as the regional and social funds could be squared with the Council of Ministers' strict adherence to budgetary discipline.

The deadlock was broken last Friday when budget ministers agreed a tortuous compromise that allows everyone to save face. This involved finding an "extra" Ecu 25m (£16.6m) of unspent money from 1986 which could be carried over into this year and increasing the "maximum rate" originally set by the ministers from 8.1 per cent to 8.1499 per cent through the addition of Ecu 4.7m to longer term commitments.

Taking the figure to the first decimal place the member states



Mr Koryagin in a picture from 1981, the year he was jailed.

Moscow to set free psychiatrist

By Patrick Cockburn in Moscow

THE SOVIET authorities will release Mr Anatoly Koryagin, a dissident psychiatrist, from prison today or tomorrow, a source close to the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said yesterday.

Mr Koryagin, a 49-year-old psychiatrist, was sentenced to seven years in a labour camp and five years internal exile in 1981 after publishing reports that the Soviet authorities were sending dissidents to mental hospitals.

Mr Gerasimov added that the case of Mr Yusuf Begun, the Jewish dissident, was under consideration and likely to be resolved "in a positive way." Demonstrations by Mr Begun's family were broken up by the police in Moscow last week.

Mr Gerasimov also mentioned that 140 people in prison, labour camps or exile had been released and between 140 and 150 cases were under review. The process would not take years but might "take several weeks."

The Soviet Union, which diplomats say has 750,000 people in prison on political charges, evidently wants to defuse the human rights issue in the eyes of international opinion without so far declaring a general amnesty.

Asked why Dr Georgy Arbatov, the head of the USA and Canada Institute and a member of the Communist Party's Central Committee, had said on US television on Sunday that Mr Begun had already been released, Mr Gerasimov said: "His case is being considered. There is a special procedure. You cannot do things just like that."

The decree releasing Mr Koryagin, the best known dissident still imprisoned, was signed on Friday, said Mr Gerasimov, adding that he would be free "today or tomorrow." He did not know if Mr Koryagin would leave the country once he had been released.

Commenting on the visit to Moscow of Mr Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's Foreign Minister, Mr Gerasimov said that Mr Edward Shevardnadze, Soviet Foreign Minister, had accepted an invitation to visit Tehran, but he gave no date.

Correction

IN THE article "How South Africa netted Bonn's submarine plans" published yesterday it was incorrectly stated that Pretoria could easily convert its Israeli-made Gabriel missiles to submarine use.

Israel was supplied with three V400 submarines in the 1970s and not the later V209 as stated in the article.

Ingenieurkontor Luebeck (IKL) was the designer of the V209, not, as stated, the builder and designer. The builder was Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft (HDW).

France starts year with FFf 2.5bn trade deficit

BY DAVID HOUSEGO IN PARIS

THE FRENCH trade account got off to a bad start to the year with a deficit of FFf 2.5bn (£271m) on a seasonally adjusted basis in January, the External Trade Ministry reported yesterday. The deficit compares with a FFf 3.7bn surplus in December which resulted in a small FFf 0.5bn surplus for the year—the first since 1978.

On an unadjusted basis, the deficit in January was still larger, rising to FFf 5.7bn as compared with a surplus of FFf 4.4bn in December 1986.

The sharp turn around was

due to a decline in exports which fell by 5.4 per cent compared with January to FFf 67.7bn on seasonally adjusted figures. By contrast, imports remained relatively stable, rising by only 1.5 per cent to FFf 70.2bn.

The deficit in January was accompanied by a further shrinkage in France's surplus in industrial goods which fell to FFf 0.8bn against FFf 3.1bn in December. This is in line with the continuing worsening in France's surplus on industrial goods—falling last year to FFf 83.2bn as against FFf 83.9bn in 1986.

Hungary records current account deficit of \$1.4bn

BY LESLIE COLLITT IN BERLIN

HUNGARY suffered a current account deficit of \$1.4bn last year, three times the hard currency deficit in 1985.

Disclosing the record payments deficit, Mr Ede Bako, a managing director of the Hungarian National Bank, said yesterday that the preliminary figure would vary little. Hungary's net debt, he noted, rose to \$7.5bn compared with \$5.1bn at the end of 1985. The debt growth was caused by the current account deficit as well as the fall of the dollar.

Hungary suffered a trade deficit of \$440m last year although a trade surplus was projected. The last trade surplus of \$314m was in 1985. Mr Bako said a modest trade surplus of between \$100m and \$200m is forecast for this year along with a current account deficit of about half the level of last year.

Mr Frigyes Berecz, a senior Hungarian Government official,

noted recently that although the economic situation was severe "we are not heading for bankruptcy." However, Mr Berecz, a deputy Prime Minister, added, Hungary could not wait another year like 1986 "without consequences."

The Hungarian economy grew by only 0.5 per cent last year following only nominal growth in previous years. None of the major production branches reached the planned growth rate while the important agricultural sector boosted output by only 1 per cent compared with a growth target of 3 per cent to 3.5 per cent.

Per capita real income in Hungary, however, rose 3 per cent compared with a goal of 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent.

Mr Peter Veress, the Foreign Trade Minister, said the sudden fall in world oil prices had hit previously profitable Hungarian exports to the West of oil products.

Odds on Haughey to win poll

BY HUGH CARNERY IN DUBLIN

THE RESULT of yesterday's Irish general election should become clear late today, although the final outcome in several constituencies will not be known until tomorrow.

Polling stations were open until 9 pm last night and the start of counting was held over until the morning.

Parties offered a high turnout among the 2.5m electorate as voting was reported brisk during a day of bright sunshine.

Mr Charles Haughey reaffirmed his confidence that his Fianna Fail party will win an overall majority, despite a

steady slide in its opinion poll ratings during the four-week election campaign.

But optimism was also expressed by Dr Garret Fitzgerald, the outgoing Prime Minister, who was startled by a scantily-clad woman with a good luck "Kissogram" as he went to vote in his Dublin constituency.

It was believed a coalition was possible between his Fine Gael party and the Progressive Democrats, who were formed by a former Fianna Fail minister only 14 months ago. Their agreement on the need for tough spending cuts to tackle the country's

heavy debt burden contrasts with Mr Haughey's policy of a push for growth.

Dublin bookmakers backed Mr Haughey's judgment, making Fianna Fail 1-2 to win a majority. A Fine Gael-Progressive Democrat coalition was 8-1 and a "hung" parliament was quoted at odds of 15-8.

The other main contenders are the Fine Gael's outgoing coalition partner, Labour, the Marxist Workers Party and Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army which is committed to taking up any seats it wins for the first time.

Eta member in leadership race

BY TOM BURNS IN MADRID

THE "EXTREME" Basque nationalist party, Herri Batasuna, yesterday put forward a jailed Eta member awaiting trial as a candidate for the post of chief minister (Lehendakari) of the region's autonomous government.

The move came as Herri Batasuna reversed its previous policy of boycotting the Basque parliament, and announced it would attend a long delayed investiture session scheduled for Friday.

By nominating Mr Juan Carlos Yoldi (23), who was elected on Herri Batasuna's ticket for Guipuzcoa province in the Basque elections held last November, the party raised the possibility of a further delay in the investiture to give time for a court decision on whether Mr Yoldi can attend it.

Arrested in 1985 in connection with a string of Eta bomb

attacks on the Renault motor company, Mr Yoldi is at present in the maximum security prison of Herrera de la Mancha. Should Mr Yoldi obtain permission to present his nomination, he will have 90 minutes in which to present a programme that will foreseeably call for negotiation with Eta and the release of its jailed members and for Basque self-determination.

A Herri Batasuna spokesman said the speech was being written jointly by the party leadership and by Mr Yoldi and his colleagues in Herrera de la Mancha.

With 13 members out of the 75 in the Basque parliament, Herri Batasuna will not gain the chief minister's post but it will have an obvious opportunity to question the credibility of autonomous government in the Basque country.

Credibility in the ability of

the Basques to govern themselves has already been damaged by the failure of the parties who do accept the autonomous framework to agree, in the wake of the November elections, on a coalition government with majority backing.

Three other candidates were nominated yesterday for the post of chief minister. The Socialist party, which won 19 seats in the poll, put forward its local leader Mr Jose Maria Benegas, and the Partido Nacionalista Vasco (PNV), the mainstream nationalist party which won 17 seats, nominated the outgoing minister, Mr Jose Antonio Ardanza.

The fourth candidate is Mr Carlos Garaikoetxea, also a former Lehendakari, who fought the elections at the head of a splinter PNV party he founded called Eusko Alkartasuna (Basque Solidarity), which gained 13 seats.

Democracy has divided Soviet allies, Leslie Colitt and Chris Bobinski report
E Europe scents danger in promise of reform

THE ghost of reform launched by the Soviet Union in Prague last week has been closely watched by European leaders, who are deeply divided over his call for a "renewal" and "democratisation" of society.

Mr Gorbachev has carefully refrained from pressing a vision of a more open and democratic society upon his six small East European allies. Such emotive words have an entirely different meaning for Czechoslovakia and East Germany than for Soviet citizens.

It is precisely in Prague and East Berlin where top level opposition to Gorbachev-style reforms is the strongest and where citizens are most hopeful that change might come about in their own rigid societies as a result of change in the Soviet Union.

Czechoslovakia's "socialism with a human face" in 1968 and Poland's Solidarity union of 1981—both crushed by the late Soviet leader, Mr Leonid Brezhnev—were bitter lessons.

There was no reforming the Communist system in Prague, Warsaw or East Berlin until the party in Moscow itself was reformed. That prospect appeared in light years away until last year's Soviet Party Congress, when Mr Gorbachev began to speak of shaking up the Soviet economy, politics and society.

His blistering attack on the social corrosion, parasitism, apathy and deception of the Brezhnev era at the Central Committee plenum in Moscow last month appeared to East Europeans to mean that everything that Mr Brezhnev had done was wrong. Did this include the so-called Brezhnev doctrine against East European reforms, they wondered.

It is clear that Mr Gorbachev and his aides have kept a much

lower profile in dealing with Eastern Europe than previous Soviet leaders. East European officials point to a compelling reason for this discretion: the Soviet Union's primary interest—as in the Brezhnev era—is to preserve stability and that they are in its vital East European buffer zone.

Nothing could be dangerous to Mr Gorbachev than to permit East Europeans to nibble on reforms and then face their

This paled by comparison with a speech in Prague last week by Mr Vasil Blahk, chief ideological officer of the Czechoslovak Communist Party. He saw the ghost of the "Prague spring" of 1968 lurking behind Mr Gorbachev's reforms—and said just that.

"Some people" in Czechoslovakia, he noted ominously, were "enthusiastic" about the "new policy" in Moscow. However, they were "sponging" on

which would "liberate creative energies." He said the "entire party, people and country must be shaken up and mobilised for the USSR." A "wishy-washy middle way" was not possible.

The Hungarian added there was no organised opposition to this policy in the Soviet Union but that there was in Czechoslovakia, waiting, passivity, resignation and more.

The wily, nationalist ruler of Romania, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, recently dismissed Mr Gorbachev's reforms by branding all market-oriented forms of Socialism and "small scale private ownership" as "capitalist" and "anti-socialist."

The changes being unveiled by Mr Gorbachev are watched with a mixture of trepidation and fascination by the people and authorities in Poland.

It has been clear since last year that General Wojciech Jaruzelski sees himself as a close supporter of Mr Gorbachev.

Indeed, many of the political and economic changes the Soviet leadership is now talking of have already been introduced in Poland as the authorities made concessions to defuse popular support for the banned Solidarity movement.

The open talk of reform in Moscow has, however, swept the ground away from under the feet of domestic conservatives and removed any threat they may have posed to the General's policies.

But while the General is stronger than ever politically, his concern now is that the messages from the east could mobilise his people to demand

changes at home which in the past it had been whispered "Moscow would never allow."

Disbelief that Mr Gorbachev is sincere is still widespread. But even the whole who discern that something is afoot, caution: they find it hard to believe that Mr Gorbachev will manage to avoid falling a victim to his own conservatives.

The brief Solidarity era was a severe experience for all Communist governments. It showed that lifting the lid from a once tightly-closed pot caused all the population's long suppressed grievances to boil over.

Genuine economic and political reforms in Eastern Europe are likely to be extremely gradual, just as they have been even in reform-minded Hungary. East European Communist parties, legitimised only by the Soviet army in 1945 and not by revolution, have no desire to be swept away by citizens who take the promises of reform too literally.

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OVERSEAS NEWS

Soviet Union raises \$150m loan in Kuwait

THE SOVIET Union has raised a landmark \$150m loan in Kuwait in what bankers see as a strategic bid to boost fledgling economic ties and cement political relations with the Gulf oil emirate, Reuters reports from Kuwait.

The loan enhanced Moscow's higher profile in the Gulf and aroused interest from banks elsewhere in the Middle East looking for a stake, regional banking sources said.

Senior officials of the Soviet Foreign Trade Bank signed the eight-year, general-purpose commercial credit with a local consortium of nine financial institutions on Sunday.

The bank's deputy chairman, Mr Vladimir Dronovskov, said he had discussed further avenues for co-operation and explored ways to fund trade and joint ventures.

The loan was the first arranged by a Kuwaiti institution at Moscow's request.

"I would say it was a move from the Soviets to strengthen the relationship of the Soviet Union and Kuwait," said a senior banker in the emirate, which has huge oil reserves.

Kuwait opened diplomatic links with Moscow in 1963 and, for 22 years, was the only Gulf Arab state with Soviet ties. But economic contacts were limited largely to buying arms.

Gulf bankers said other institutions in the area, mainly Bahrain, showed interest when they heard the loan was being put together. But Moscow wanted it limited to Kuwaiti banks.

Banking sources said Moscow's sound rating in world credit markets underlined the strategic nature of the loan.

"Internationally, when Russia approaches the market, there will often be an over-subscription... this looks like a way to start a direct relationship with local banks," a source said.

Bankers said enthusiasm in the

region for the loan was encouraging for the Kremlin, which had repeatedly expressed a desire to develop trade and other economic links in the Gulf.

Soviet lending is not new to Kuwait institutions, who for some years have taken part in Western-based credit consortiums. But each commercial bank had its own closely-guarded strategy and details were hard to come by, bankers said.

The Soviet signing capped a flurry of exchanges in recent years between Moscow and Kuwait, which served as a springboard for Soviet diplomatic overtures to the rest of the Gulf.

Moscow, in 1985, formalised diplomatic relations with Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). But the other members of the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) — Bahrain, Qatar and Saudi Arabia — show no signs of seeking formal ties.

Al-Seyassah newspaper reported last June that Kuwait and Moscow were to study joint investment projects in the Soviet Union and the Arab world worth one billion dollars.

The report came soon after Jassim al-Khorafi, Finance Minister said Kuwait, with \$80bn in petrodollar reserves held mostly in the West, planned to invest more in Communist and Third World countries.

It predicted joint economic co-operation in an array of projects including finance, oil and petrochemical, and other industrial ventures.

Dronovskov was quoted as saying this week that all sectors of the Soviet economy, from industry and trade to agriculture were open to joint ventures with Kuwait.

The Kuwait Foreign Trade Contracting and Investment Company, which managed the loan, refused to disclose the interest. It said terms were "in line with recent commercial transactions entered into by the Soviet Foreign Trade Bank."

International

THE ARTS every day

Rift deepens among Chinese leaders

By Colina MacDougall

WANG ZHEN, vice-chairman of the Chinese Communist party's advisory commission, said yesterday that the party had been hit by "weakness and confusion" in the ideological field in recent years.

This statement marks a tough new attack on liberal trends. This contrasted, he said, in the unity shown eight years ago in opposing the Gang of Four — Chairman Mao's wife and her radical colleagues who promoted the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution.

This attack suggests a deepening rift in the leadership between conservative Communists, for whom Wang Zhen has been a prominent spokesman in recent weeks, and the more liberal reformers led by the supreme leader, Deng Xiaoping, who have sought a more flexible political approach to boost economic reform.

This rift first appeared publicly when Hu Yaobang, the former party general secretary, was dismissed from his post a month ago following student demonstrations for more freedoms in Peking and other Chinese cities.

At the same time, there are ominous signs that this rift is accompanied by a spread of the campaign against "bourgeois liberalism," which initially Zhao Ziyang, the Premier, declared would not go beyond the Party.

While Premier Zhao yesterday reaffirmed that the country's reforms and open policy were not under threat from the current drive against Western ideas, he did not repeat his earlier assurances.

Two other targets for the campaign were yesterday pinpointed — the army and the college campuses.

Yesterday's Liberation Army Daily said: "The whole army corps should also participate in the campaign, and an announcement by the military's General Political Department called for an ideological education programme which included more study of Marx and of the writings of Deng Xiaoping."

The People's Daily yesterday carried on its front page a warning from Vice-Premier Li Peng, sometimes tipped to be China's next premier, that only students with both ability and political integrity could be regarded as qualified to build a Socialist China.

Lionel Barber reports on Israel's Washington talks in the wake of the Iran arms scandal Shamir sets out to repair US relationship

WHEN Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir met yesterday with US Secretary of State Mr George Shultz, one topic is bound to have come up on the agenda: the Iran arms scandal.

Despite strenuous attempts by Israeli officials to play down the scandal—even to the point of suggesting that President Ronald Reagan had privately promised Mr Shamir not to raise it during his meeting yesterday—the revelations about Israel's role have caused considerable strains in the two countries' relationships.

Israel is extremely concerned about the way in which the scandal could damage what must rank as America's closest relationship with the special relationship with the UK for it has a bearing on several aspects of US policy in the Middle East.

As one former senior US diplomat said: "The essence of our policies in the region—not negotiating with terrorists, stopping people selling arms to Iran and not taking sides in the Iran-Iraq war—has been violated. It has been a debacle."

US diplomacy over the next two years will try to recover the trust and confidence of moderate Arab states such as Jordan and Egypt. The so-called Middle East peace process — the ever-elusive attempt to solve the problem of a Palestinian homeland while assuaging Israel's national security concerns — will

remain stalled because the US, pressure by the American Jewish lobby. This was not an example of the Reagan Administration being pressured into halting weapons sales to an Arab state such as Egypt or Jordan (as has happened on several occasions during the Reagan presidency). Far from it. The Israelis were this time

The big Israeli fear is that the scandal may cause Washington to over-react in its courting of friendly Arab countries and thereby weaken the US-Israeli relationship, still one of the most sensitive subjects in domestic American politics. Politicians and the press in America are generally very wary of criticising Israel. Ties between the two countries are historic—military and economic aid amounts to \$3bn a year—and support for Israel among the American public is beyond doubt. Jewish voters, activist and easily mobilised, can still make or break a politician in the big cities.

But since the Irangate revelations, exposing intense Israeli involvement — from former Prime Minister Mr Shimon Peres downwards — in President Reagan's decision to sell arms to Iran, some doubts have been raised about Israel's role in US foreign policy. As one former diplomat said: "People want to know how in God's name the Israelis managed to have such influence over the White House."

The question is even more striking when one remembers that US arms sales to Iran were not a result of intense

pressure by the American Jewish lobby. This was not an example of the Reagan Administration being pressured into halting weapons sales to an Arab state such as Egypt or Jordan (as has happened on several occasions during the Reagan presidency). Far from it. The Israelis were this time

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The susceptibility of White House officials to the Israeli idea is explained several ways: the US, heavily dependent on the Middle East, largely accepted its analysis of the need to promote ties with supposed moderates in Tehran; the National Security Council staff's mixture

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The two are very different. As if to underline this point, the Justice Department this week disclosed a new development in the case of Jonathan Jay Pollard, the former US Navy intelligence analyst who confessed to funneling secrets to Israel for cash over an 18-month period until his arrest in November 1985. The Department said it had notified three Israeli implicates in the case that their immunity would be revoked and that another alleged spy ring member could be indicted. The reason cited was that they believed that the Israelis had lied in earlier evidence.

A sign, too, that sentiment may be changing a little came when US officials disclosed in testimony to Congress this week that they are considering a plan to help Jordan upgrade its fixed base anti-aircraft weapons to a mobile system, partly to stop Amman turning to Moscow for arms.

Mr Shamir's goal in his 10-day tour of the US will be to block any major prospective US arms deals with the Arab states, right down to a \$3m package to supply Jordan with the copperhead anti-tank missile he can do that—and drive home his weekend message that Israel has now been elevated to the status of an "official ally" (meaning expanded military collaboration), then his job will be well done.

Egypt hopes Sudan leader's visit will restore links

BY TONY WALKER IN CAIRO

EGYPT hopes this week's visit to Cairo of Mr Sadeq Al-Mahdi, Sudan's leader, will help re-establish cordial relations that have existed in the past between the two Nile Basin countries.

Since Mr Al-Mahdi came to power in May 1986 in democratic elections following a coup that overthrew former President Jaafar Nimeiri in 1985, he has kept his distance from Egypt as part of an effort to chart a more independent course for Sudan.

Sudan's Prime Minister sought improved ties with Libya, Egypt's arch-enemy, distanced his country from the US, and refurbished links with the Soviet Union, visiting Moscow in the process.

Egypt has watched with concern such developments, worrying that Mr Al-Mahdi's attempts

to forge a new foreign policy independent of the superpowers would become "institutionalised" to the detriment of relations between Cairo and Khartoum.

Mr Al-Mahdi has in the past criticised Egypt's policies towards the Sudan. These policies led Cairo several times to send troops in support of Mr Nimeiri when he faced internal opposition.

Many Sudanese, and Mr Al-Mahdi is no exception, feel that Egypt has, on occasions, adopted a paternalistic approach towards Sudan. This has caused underlying tension.

A senior Egyptian official, who has responsibility for relations with Black Africa, said in an interview that the pattern of Egypt's relationship with Sudan had been one of "ups and downs."



Mr Sadeq Al-Mahdi

Basically, ties were sound, he added, noting that the two countries share the waters of

the Nile, that thousands of Sudanese students are studying at Egyptian Universities and that there is extensive military and economic co-operation.

These points in common outweighed present differences over Libya, Chad, the Gulf war, and Ethiopia, with whom Egypt improved its relations recently. There is tension between Khartoum and Addis Ababa over Ethiopia's support of the southern Sudanese insurrection.

Egypt has been concerned about Mr Al-Mahdi's lack of progress in ending the southern rebellion. There has also been worry in Cairo about an apparent failure in Sudan to come to grips with its economic difficulties, although Egypt is hardly in a position to criticise its southern neighbour on that score.

Cairo has been particularly concerned about Sudan's improved relations with Libya which Mr Al-Mahdi initiated soon after his election. Libya has been providing Sudan with military assistance.

But Egyptian officials say that Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Libya is in no position to play a constructive role in Sudan's future, simply because Libya does not have the financial resources to provide the huge aid required.

Egyptian officials have noted with approval Mr Al-Mahdi's efforts recently to limit Libyan influence in his country.

Another potential difference — the presence in exile in Egypt of Mr Nimeiri — is thought unlikely to cause difficulties during Mr Al-Mahdi's visit.

Cairo lets public sector buy in unofficial market

BY OUR CAIRO CORRESPONDENT

EGYPT is allowing selected public-sector institutions to buy dollars in the unofficial currency market to fund imports of raw materials and to repay debts.

The decision is a sign that the central bank is desperately short of foreign exchange. It also means that Egypt is seriously considering licensing banks to deal in the free market.

At the same time, public-sector institutions fortunate enough to secure dollars from the central bank are being required to pay a premium of about £E1.70 to the US dollar compared with the official commercial rate of £E1.35 to the dollar.

A prominent Egyptian banker said these moves were aimed at "testing the water" before the authorities further relaxed restrictions on public-sector banks and companies dealing in the free market.

Egypt has been under strong pressure from the International Monetary Fund to rationalise its multi-layered exchange rate

system. The various rates bear little relation to the real value of the Egyptian pound against foreign currencies.

The Egyptian pound in the free market at about 1.98 to the dollar. The Government is concerned about a huge depreciation if the pound were floated.

The value of the pound in the free market has been relatively stable. This is most likely attributable to Egypt's success in restraining imports under new regulations introduced last year.

There is almost certainly a strong pent-up demand for dollars in the market. Egypt is heavily in arrears to its international creditors on a \$40bn (£28.5bn) foreign debt. Factories are operating at much reduced capacity partly because of lack of foreign exchange to purchase raw materials.

Meanwhile, officials familiar with discussions between Egypt and the IMF on a standby credit say the two sides are relatively close to an agreement.

IMF and World Bank for talks in Zambia next week

BY VICTOR MALLETT IN LUSAKA

A MISSION from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank will visit Zambia next week in an effort to revive the country's increasingly shaky economic reform programme.

Mr Barber Conable, World Bank President announcing the mission in Lusaka, said the IMF and World Bank representatives were expected to discuss adjustments or even alternatives to the recently-suspended system of weekly foreign currency auctions.

The auction system started in 1985 and was a cornerstone of the IMF's attempts to restructure the Zambian economy, but the auctioning was suddenly suspended three weeks ago by President Kenneth Kaunda, who also reshuffled his Cabinet.

Dr Kaunda's announcement, apparently in response to anger in the ruling party over the weakness of the Zambian kwacha on the free market, could be a serious setback for Western attempts to reorganise African economies on the basis of realistic exchange

rates, although the response from the World Bank and the IMF was so far far from enthusiastic. Dr Kaunda has said that the kwacha, valued at around 15 to the dollar in the most recent auctions, would be pegged to a basket of currencies and set between nine and 12.5 to the dollar.

At the same time, he has reaffirmed his support for the auction, an apparently contradictory stance which has confused and exasperated Western observers.

Calling on Zambia to move away from its dependence on copper mining, Mr Conable praised the president but criticised other Zambian leaders for failing to understand the need to make sacrifices now for the country's future prosperity.

Barclays Bank is expected to hold talks in Britain soon with the Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM), following discussions in Lusaka this week between Barclays International's chairman-designate, Mr John Quinton, and the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla movement.

Manila general aims for civilian credibility

BY RICHARD GOURLAY IN MANILA

WHEN Manila's Defence Minister, retired Gen Rafael Nieto and troops throughout the Philippines swore allegiance to the new constitution on Monday, it was cosmetic surgery designed to lift the sagging image of the country's military.

Mr Nieto is the first to admit that more than just a face-lift is required. When he took over as Defence Minister last November, the 67-year-old former armed forces Vice-Chief of Staff and Ambassador to Iran and Thailand inherited a corrupt, inefficient and deeply politicised military.

The hangover from the past continues to hamper the military as the 18-year war with Communist New People's Army guerrillas (NPA) resumed last week after a 60-day ceasefire failed to bring peace.

"We would like to improve first the capability to hit," Mr Nieto says. Among the needed improvements he lists communications, mobility, motivation and firepower, leaving little that meets with his approval.

Mr Nieto, who fell out with former President Ferdinand Marcos for refusing to back martial law in 1971, has credentials that give him licence to criticise.

After training at West Point Military Academy, he became

the "father" of the Philippine Alamo Scouts that led the successful anti-insurgency campaign against the Hukbalahap Communist guerrillas in the 1950s.

Then banished to Thailand as Ambassador by Mr Marcos in 1981—for being too "independent minded"—he tells Mr Nieto watched as that country's Communist insurgency crumbled under a military and economic assault.

"He is a very effective, recognised peacemaker," Mr Nieto's military expert said, recalling Mr Nieto's army record that stretches back to fighting the Japanese with the American forces in 1943.

But Mr Nieto will need all his diplomatic skills to deal with the dissent in the officer corps. A military revolt last February helped topple Mr Marcos but left many officers apparently reluctant to accept civilian supremacy.

In her first year in power, President Corason Aquino faced at least three attempted coups and a constant rumble of protest from many officers upset by her alleged softness towards the Communists.

"The military is like a genie that won't return to its bottle," one palace official said. Mr Nieto thinks it will take a generation to raise professional standards in the military.

Gen Fidel Ramos, Manila's armed forces chief of staff yesterday criticised the Government for "not supporting" the military's campaign against Communist insurgents, as official concern rose over 17 villagers killed in a clash with rebels last week, Richard Gourlay reports.

"The soldiers, especially out in the field, are akin to boxers in a championship fight with an arm tied behind their backs," Gen Ramos said.

"This group is used to lording it over the civilians," he declares.

While Mr Nieto is surprisingly frank about the military's shortcomings and quick to criticise field officers who he thinks are incompetent, he still believes the Communists pose no threat to the Government.

But even if the military can contain the rebels, despite its shortcomings, the central plank of Mr Nieto's anti-insurgency approach has already taken a knock.

Unless the integrity of the state is directly challenged, he plans to mount only as many military assaults against the NPA as public opinion will allow him to get away with.

In this way, Mr Nieto hopes to get and keep the civilians on

the Government's side. But on February 10, soldiers in a firefight with the NPA shot dead 17 villagers.

Survivors described it as a "horrible massacre" reminiscent of the worst in the Marcos years, and denied military claims that the civilians were NPA sympathisers.

Since then, two inquiries have been set up while enraged villagers and soldiers have traded versions of the incident.

"People at the moment give more credibility to the word of the villagers because of the reputation of the army," an Asian military observer said.

The incident has further soured relations between the military and the civilian government. But Mr Nieto has one advantage over his predecessor, Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, many of whose views on counter-insurgency policy he shares.

Mr Nieto has a soft-spoken style that many civilians find a welcome change from Mr Enrile's chest-beating, yet he has won the respect of many officers who know his history and his harder side.

As the guerrilla war heats up, inevitably leading to more civilian victims, Mr Nieto is likely to emerge as the peace-maker between the military and civilian sides of the Government.

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BANCO S. GEMINIANO E S. PROSPERO BANCA NAZIONALE DELLE COMUNICAZIONI BANCA PROVINCIALE LOMBARDA
BANCO DI SARDEGNA BANCO LARIANO CASSA CENTRALE DI RISPARMIO V.E. PER LE PROVINCE SICILIANE
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BANCA POPOLARE COMMERCIO E INDUSTRIA BANCA POPOLARE DI NOVARA BANCA TOSCANA
BANCO DI SANTO SPIRITO CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI GENOVA E IMPERIA CREDITO COMMERCIALE

TENDER PANEL BANKS

ISTITUTO BANCARIO SAN PAOLO DI TORINO ISTITUTO DI CREDITO DELLE CASSE DI RISPARMIO ITALIANE
CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI VERONA VICENZA E BELLUNO BANCA CREDITO AGRARIO BRESCIANO
BANCA POPOLARE COMMERCIO E INDUSTRIA CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI GENOVA E IMPERIA CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI RIETI
GENERALE BANK BANCA AGRICOLA POPOLARE DI RAGUSA BANCA ANTONIANA DI PADOVA E TRIESTE
BANCA ARDITI GALATI BANCA CALDERARI BANCA CATTOLICA POPOLARE BANCA DEL MONTE DI BOLOGNA E RAVENNA
BANCA DEL MONTE DI MILANO BANCA DEL MONTE DI PARMA BANCA DEL SALENTO BANCA DEL SUD
BANCA DI CREDITO POPOLARE BANCA DI TRENTO E BOLZANO BANCA OPERAIA DI BOLOGNA
BANCA POPOLARE ABRUZZESE E MARCHIGIANA BANCA POPOLARE COOPERATIVA DI PESCAPAGNO
BANCA POPOLARE DELL'EMILIA BANCA POPOLARE DELL'ETRURIA BANCA POPOLARE DI ABBIATEGRASSO
BANCA POPOLARE DI BOLOGNA E FERRARA BANCA POPOLARE DI LECCO BANCA POPOLARE DI LODI
BANCA POPOLARE DI PORDENONE BANCA POPOLARE DI SASSARI BANCA POPOLARE DI SPOLETO
BANCA POPOLARE SANT'ANGELO BANCA POPOLARE UDINESE BANCA SELLA BANCO DI CHIAVARI E DELLA RIVIERA LIGURE
CASSA CENTRALE DELLE CASSE RURALI TRENTE CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI FORLI
CASSA DI RISPARMIO DELLA PROVINCIA DI VITERBO CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI ASCOLI PICENO CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI ASTI
CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI CUNEO CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI FERMO CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI PESARO
CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI MODENA CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI PARMA CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI REGGIO EMILIA
CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI PIACENZA CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI RAVENNA CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI VENEZIA
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CREDITO VARESE ISTITUTO DI CREDITO DELLE CASSE RURALI ED ARTIGIANE
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December 1986

WORLD TRADE NEWS

OECD plans to combat shipping protection

By George Graham in Paris

WESTERN industrial nations plan to combat protectionism in the shipping industry and take countermeasures against countries which unilaterally protect their own fleets from free competition.

Members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) have agreed on a detailed set of principles aimed at preserving the freedom of world seaborne trade and strengthening the liberalisation code on shipping in the organisation's area.

Mr Jacques Leblond, president of the OECD's maritime transport committee, said yesterday that the principles showed the clear will of member countries to bring protectionism and unilateralism to a halt.

The agreement, which has taken seven years to negotiate, aims to block efforts of non-OECD nations, especially Eastern European countries, to protect their national shipping fleets by such methods as central freight bureaux which have to designate which ships must be used to transport a cargo.

The agreement also includes a code of conduct for the organisation of liner shipping and shipping conferences, to stop them from abusing their cartel positions.

Shipping conferences are to be encouraged to make their tariffs readily available to shippers, and to negotiate with customers before changing these tariffs.

They should not, however, be permitted to penalise a shipper for using non-conference carriers, to impose excessive loyalty contracts or to use "fighting ships", loss leaders which aim to cut out competing carriers outside the conference by offering to carry cargo at prices below cost.

The agreements are contained in a recommendation of 13 principles, aimed at extending the freedom of liner shipping which member countries should follow when they change maritime policy.

These principles are not compulsory, but OECD members have agreed on a standstill clause, blocking the introduction of any new or additional measures restricting competitive access to international trade and cargoes. Australia has reserved its position on five of the principles.

A number of countries did not agree to the guidelines on offshore transport, including Australia, Canada, Japan, the UK and the US. Kevin Brown adds: The OECD negotiations have caused considerable concern among many Third World maritime nations. The shipping committee of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) reported recently that the concept of "co-ordinated resistance" to cargo reservation by developed countries was seen as a denial of the right of developing countries to build up their own fleets.

Japanese companies ready to sell digital audio tape systems

BY CARLA RAPOPORT IN TOKYO

THE JAPANESE launch of a controversial digital audio tape (DAT) system, which is expected to make its marketing plans known tomorrow, is normally among the first to enter a new market.

Both companies, along with Aiwa, are expected to limit sales to the Japanese market for the time being, but industry analysts expect that exports of the products will begin in the second half of this year.

The Sony and Matsushita machines are expected to have a copyguard device which will oblige the user to record compact discs through a conventional amplifier. This will reduce the quality of the finished tape, but industry executives say that the device can be easily removed by an audio shop clerk.

Matsushita yesterday said it would manufacture audio hi-fi tuners and video tape recorders (VTR) in France. VTR production will start at Longwy, Lorraine, in August, creating about 60 jobs. Initial production will be 50,000 units a year.

Production of hi-fi tuners has already begun, and will reach 54,000 units a year. The company stressed yesterday that it aimed to achieve a high rate of local component content.

despite the controversy surrounding it overseas.

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Maggie Ford assesses Seoul's efforts to open its markets to imported products

US cigarettes fail to draw S Korean smokers

US OFFICIALS could be forgiven their sceptical response earlier this month when the South Korean Trade Minister, Mr Rha Woon Bae, announced that the Government was to take further steps to open markets to imported products.

Only one day before the first figures had been released for sales of foreign cigarettes allowed under liberalisation measures announced last year. They showed that in the first three months of sales, only about a quarter of the packs allowed into the country had actually been sold.

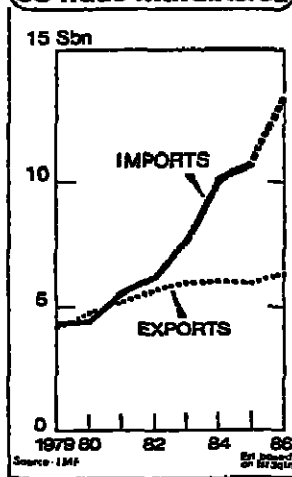
The cigarette example shows how promises of market opening may not translate into real sales, US officials say. After liberalisation, cigarette importers faced a number of barriers to sales:

● The price of foreign cigarettes was set at Won 1,400 (about \$1.65) a pack, compared with Won 500 for a pack of good Korean cigarettes.

● Only 500 outlets were authorised to sell foreign cigarettes, severely restricting smokers' access to them. The Government has responded to this complaint by promising to double the number of outlets.

● Arrangements for retailers' profits were changed by the government monopoly in charge of cigarette sales. Instead of receiving a percentage of the

US Trade with S. Korea



South Korea is to send a delegation of 50 businessmen and 20 officials led by the Trade and Industry Minister to the US and Canada next week with \$2bn to spend on North American products.

The visit is an attempt to respond to pressure from Washington over the \$74bn trade surplus Seoul recorded last year with the US. The South Korean Government has said it wants to keep the surplus at the same level this year.

South Korea last year recorded a trade deficit of \$5.4bn with Japan, from which it imports machinery and parts for its own finished goods.

cigarettes but say that people object to US pressure to open markets and have resisted the sales effort. Pointing to the media campaign suggesting that it was unpatriotic to smoke foreign cigarettes, Mr Lee Ki Sung, deputy director general of the Bureau of International Trade Promotion at the Ministry of Trade, said that Koreans preferred the taste of local brands.

Seoul had responded to US complaints about the number of outlets, he said and it was possible that other changes

would take place when the monopoly office was privatised later this year.

Although the cigarette experience has been salutary for US trade negotiators, they are pressing on with their efforts to reduce the South Korean trade surplus with the US. The surplus is expected to rise this year from \$7bn to \$10bn.

They are concentrating their efforts on gaining access for US agricultural and high tech products and on trying to persuade the South Koreans to liberalise the service sector, particularly in banking, insurance and advertising.

Some gains have already been made this year. Last week the Trade Ministry announced that imports of alfalfa pellets, cranberries and lemon juice would be allowed in, along with some personal computers and associated equipment and large cars over 2000cc, an area where US manufacturers are strong.

South Korean trade officials say that Seoul will abide by the decisions taken in the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade over the services issue and point to the acceptance last year of the first US company into the large South Korean insurance sector. A second is likely to be admitted this year, they say.

The most strongly fought argument is likely to be in the

agriculture sector, where the US is keen to export beef, oranges and wine, products which they claim to be extremely competitive and where protectionist pressure in the US Congress is clearly focused.

South Korean officials point out, however, that liberalising the agricultural sector is very difficult because farmers can apply substantial political pressure on members of the South Korean ruling party, many of whom sit for rural constituencies. In a year when the country is supposed to be holding historic elections in advance of the end of President Chun's term of office, the political risk of giving way is too high.

South Korea is not the new Japan, officials say, but a developing country with a very high foreign debt, a per capita income one-sixth that of Japan, which only experienced a trade surplus for the first time last year.

Nevertheless, say the Americans, South Korea would be better off in the long run if it gave a little now. But local resistance to foreign pressure may yet win the day in this highly nationalistic country. American cigarette retailers may find that even if you make it easy for the horse to find the water, he still won't drink.

Turbo-Union in European fighter race

By Michael Donne, Aerospace Correspondent

TURBO-UNION, the three-nation aero-engine group, is launching a strong bid to win the contract to power the first prototypes of the European Fighter Aircraft (EFA). It is offering its RB-199 Tornado fighter engine, which faces tough competition from General Electric of the US.

The value of the deal is small, covering only about 77 engines for perhaps four prototype EFAs. It has considerable long-term significance, however, for future sales of the RB-199 engine.

An interim engine is needed for the EFA prototypes because the other new European engine being developed for the production EFAs, the EJ-200, will not be available before the early 1990s.

The EJ-200 is being specially developed by Eurojet Engines, another new organisation, in which Rolls-Royce, a member of Turbo-Union also has a big stake.

Turbo-Union has offered its RB-199 engine because it feels that if General Electric won the contract the US group would be in a strong position, possibly even to oust the EJ-200 from the ultimate EFA production aircraft.

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NATIONAL SAVINGS

Tokyo offers untied loan of \$900m to Indonesia

BY JOHN MURRAY BROWN IN JAKARTA

INDONESIA yesterday agreed a \$900m loan with Japan, its main investment and trading partner. The loan, signed in Jakarta by Mr Takashi Tanaka, head of Japan's Exim Bank, is unusual in being untied to the purchase of Japanese goods and services.

It comes as Japan faces criticism from both the US and its European partners in the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that it uses so-called tied aid to support its export drive.

Under the terms of the loan interest will be paid at 6.5 per cent with a slightly longer repayment period of ten years. The funds will be used to cover the local cost of development projects financed by the World Bank which might otherwise have been shared.

Foreign loans—bilateral aid, soft loans or export credit—cover 25 per cent of all govern-

ment expenditures and over half development spending under the budget for 1987-88 to be agreed in April. The Government, which recently won a \$300m trade policy loan from the World Bank, is expected to tap commercial markets this year to increase its foreign debt, currently at around \$30bn.

Mr Tanaka said yesterday the loan reflected "Tokyo's close economic ties with Indonesia," a country which supplies Japan with key raw materials particularly oil and gas, and is vital in controlling Japan's trade links through the Malacca Straits to Europe and the Middle East.

The agreement comes as Indonesia faces its worst recession in 10 years following the fall in earnings from oil, its main export. The accord follows a visit to Jakarta last month by Mr Hajime Tanuma, Japan's Minister of International Trade and Investment (Mitl).

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UK NEWS

Report urges improved analysis of farm income

BY MAX WILKINSON, RESOURCES EDITOR

MORE EFFORTS should be made to discover how much of the £1.5bn agricultural subsidies in the UK leaks into inflated land values of in-to the pockets of non-farmers, says a report to parliament published yesterday.

The report, by Sir Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General, says that reliable measurement and analysis of farming incomes are now particularly important in view of the efforts to reduce European commodity surpluses.

However, in a veiled criticism he suggests that the Agriculture Ministry believes the need to reform the Common Agricultural Policy reduces the need for analysis of UK farm incomes.

Sir Gordon says the government obtains "an impressive array" of statistics on the farming industry. However, he suggests that attention could be focused on the changes in the capital assets of

farmers as well as on subsidies and their net incomes.

He also says policy could be better formulated if the Government were to use its data from income and other surveys to "estimate how much of the financial support was retained by farming itself and how much passed into other hands through, for example, higher prices paid by the industry for the use of land, goods and services."

However, the Ministry of Agriculture told him that this would require major research.

Sir Gordon's report also found that: "The agriculture departments paid little attention to their policy-making to farm balance-sheet information, for example, to consider the existence of reserves as a cushion against lean years or how far income had been used for re-investment."

Analysis of farms balance sheets - clearly important when deciding the level of capital grants for farm-

ers - was found to be hampered by out-of-date computer facilities and restricted survey data.

He notes that research into the effectiveness of capital grants produced only a tentative conclusion that costs had been reduced. The sample was not reliable enough to measure the effect on income.

The report adds: "On visits to three ministry divisional offices the National Audit Office found there was no systematic local investigation of the extent to which target income was achieved in individual cases."

It quotes the Annual Review of Agriculture's estimate that in 1986 gross UK agricultural output was £12.2bn. After subtracting depreciation and farmers' expenditures, the net product was £4.5bn. Total subsidies and support under the CAP is put at £1.5bn for 1986-87.

The Measurement of Farming Incomes Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General, National Audit Office, HMSO, £7.90.

Government turns down plan to build town on protected land

BY JOAN GRAY, CONSTRUCTION CORRESPONDENT

THE GOVERNMENT has rejected a plan by Britain's biggest house-builders to build a new country town for 15,000 people on protected green-belt farmland at Tillingham Hall in Essex, in south-east England.

The controversial scheme has been regarded as a test case of the Government's determination to preserve the green belt protected-land from developers, especially in the face of growing lobbying about the

fate of the present surplus of agricultural land.

The verdict on Tillingham Hall, announced by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, signals the Government's commitment to the maintenance of approved green belts.

The Tillingham Hall proposal was put forward by Consortium Developments, a group of seven of Britain's biggest house-builders, in-

cluding Barratt, Wimpey, Tarmac and Trafalgar House's Ideal Homes.

The consortium argued that there was a shortage of building land in the south east, where people most want to live, and so it was necessary to consider sites such as Tillingham.

The key reason for not allowing the Tillingham Hall development is that the site lies in the long-established metropolitan green belt around London.

Guinness may face inquiries by police

By Peter Riddell, Political Editor

THE DIRECTOR of Public Prosecutions (DPP) is considering whether to involve the police in the investigation of alleged criminal offences during the takeover of Distillers, the whisky company, last year by the drinks group Guinness.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, stated last night in a parliamentary written answer: "The Department of Trade and Industry inquiry into Guinness is proceeding, and there is already close liaison with the Director of Public Prosecutions, who is being advised by leading counsel. The question whether to request police inquiries is among those now under active consideration by the DPP."

His answer was to a question by Sir Alex Fletcher, the former Conservative corporate affairs minister, who has been a consultant of the Argyll Group, which hid unsuccessfully for Distillers last year.

Sir Alex asked whether allegations about criminal offences involving Guinness would be referred to the DPP with a view to a request for police inquiries. This followed last week that the police might be kept out.

Sir Alex said last night that he had been concerned about reports that the police wanted to go in and investigate alleged criminal offences and it seemed reasonable to expect that they might go in soon.

"I am fully aware that the work done by the inspectors under the Companies Act is both complex and lengthy, but there is no reason why that should prevent the fraud squad carrying out its normal investigation, and I hope that will now proceed."

American Express owed \$322,000

BY RAYMOND HUGHES, LAW COURTS CORRESPONDENT

A SAUDI Arabian businessman has been ordered by the High Court in London to pay \$322,000 (£212,000) to American Express, the credit card company.

The court was told that in about five months up to September 1979, Mr Adnan Hassan Sharbatly had run up debts totalling \$56,500 on his American Express green and gold cards. Interest on the sum amounted to \$114,023.

Mr Sharbatly also owed \$53,758 on an overdraft with American Ex-

press International Banking Corporation, of Bahrain plus \$98,777 interest.

The claim was the largest ever made by American Express against a cardholder in the English courts.

It was contested by Mr Sharbatly, who said he had paid \$36,380 to an American Express employee in Jeddah in about October 1979, in full and final settlement of the claims against him.

American Express denied that the payment had been accepted in

full settlement of its claims.

The businessman also said that someone else had applied for and been issued with an American Express card in his name and had run up debts for which he was held liable.

The judge ordered Mr Sharbatly's solicitors not to part with the deeds of a flat in Warwick Avenue, west London, owned by Mr Sharbatly.

Mr Sharbatly is to consider an appeal.

EEC 'should adopt a single patent system'

By Richard Evans

A SINGLE patent system for the European Community should be introduced without delay to replace the present system of separate patents for each member state, according to a House of Lords Select Committee.

The Lords say in a report published today that a system of unitary patents for the EEC would be "a major benefit to commerce and industry" and would help the "smooth operation of a completed internal market."

A single patent system should be brought into operation as soon as Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK are prepared to ratify the relevant treaties, the report says. Introduction should not be deferred until all 12 member states are willing to take part.

The committee says a single patent application for at least the major industrial members of the Community would have several advantages over the present national patents, but to be successful it was necessary to keep costs down.

Select Committee on the European Communities: A European Community Patent. HMSO. £10.40.

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Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 1004 of the Indenture dated as of December 1, 1980, between Transco International N.V., Transco Companies, Inc., as Guarantor, and Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, as Trustee, that all of the outstanding 8 1/4% Convertible Subordinated Debentures Due 1995 of Transco International N.V., Transco Companies, Inc. (now Transco Energy Company) ("Debentures") have been called for redemption on March 13, 1987 ("Redemption Date") at 100% of the principal amount thereof ("Redemption Price") plus accrued interest to the Redemption Date.

Payment of the Redemption Price plus accrued interest to the Redemption Date will be made in each coin or currency of the United States of America as at the time of payment shall be legal tender for the payment of public and private debts. Payment will be made by a check drawn on Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company in New York, New York, or by a transfer to a dollar account maintained by the payee with a bank in New York City.

The Redemption Price of \$1,000 per \$1,000 Debenture, together with accrued interest of \$24.79 per \$1,000 Debenture, shall become due and payable upon surrender of the Debenture to the Corporate Trust Office of Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, either at: 130 John Street, Street Level, New York, New York, 10038, or to the Coupon Paying Department, P.O. Box 2802, G.P.O. Station, New York, New York 10116, if by mail or (b) subject to any laws or regulations applicable thereto in the country of any of the following offices, at the main offices of Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company in Frankfurt, London and Zurich, or at Manufacturers Hanover Bank Luxembourg S.A. in Luxembourg and at Banque Bruxelles Lambert in Brussels.

Interest will cease to accrue on the Debentures on the Redemption Date. All Debentures presented for redemption or conversion must have the December 1, 1987 and subsequent coupons attached.

The Debentures are convertible into Common Stock of Transco Energy Company at the rate of 11.75 shares of Common Stock for each \$1,000 Debenture on or before the Redemption Date. At the close of business on such date, March 13, 1987, the right to convert the Debentures will terminate. Debentures may be surrendered for conversion in accordance with the terms of the Indenture at any of the places of payment referred to above.

No payment will be made for interest accrued on any Debenture that shall be converted or for dividends on any Common Stock that shall be issuable upon the conversion of such Debenture subsequent to a dividend record date.

The closing price of Transco Energy Company Common Stock on January 30, 1987 was \$44.75 per share.

Withholding of 30% of gross redemption proceeds of any payment made within the United States is required by the interest and dividend tax of 1983 unless the Paying Agent has the correct taxpayer identification number (social security or employer identification number) or exemption certificate of the Payee. Please furnish a properly completed Form W-9 or exemption certificate or equivalent when presenting your securities.

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UK NEWS

UK car prices
'among lowest
in Europe'

BY KENNETH GOODING, MOTOR INDUSTRY CORRESPONDENT

CAR PRICES before tax in the UK are now among the lowest in Europe and, for those willing to shop around, the best deals available are those in Britain, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders claimed yesterday.

The society recently compared pre-tax prices in West Germany, France, Italy and the UK to see what was the impact of the steep fall in the value of the pound last year.

Using a sample of 24 models from 11 different manufacturers, it found that last December's UK pre-tax price was the lowest in 71 out of 81 comparisons.

"Even in a country like Belgium, where the situation is distorted by governmental price control, the price differential - certainly on small and mid-range cars - is likely to be negated by the financial and other incentives available in most British dealerships," said Mr Anthony Fraser, the society's director, yesterday.

He said the once much-publicised business in 'personal imports' of cars from other EEC countries had practically disappeared because of the change in currency values.

Mr Fraser pointed out, however, that the movement in exchange rates could influence prices in either direction. "So I can only repeat my previous advice. If you are thinking of buying a car abroad, you should make sure that the car you order is to the same specification it would be in Britain.

Also make sure you get a reasonable delivery date and, above everything else, watch the exchange-rate clauses in the contract."

"It is also important to make sure that any agent you choose to deal with is reputable. Many people are still smarting in the wallet from lost deposits caused by bankruptcy, incompetence or plain, old-fashioned dishonesty."

Government agrees
to open secret files

BY PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE public will have access to personal education, housing and social welfare records under the terms of an informal understanding reached between the Government and the sponsors of a private member's bill which is due to have its second reading in the House of Commons on Friday.

This would represent a significant extension to the public's rights to see confidential information already given by the Data Protection Act, which comes into full operation in November and applies only to computerised records.

The new Access to Personal Files Bill, which has all-party backing, applies to records kept manually and on paper. It would give individuals the right to see files on them kept by public authorities, employers and members of the professions.

The Government has reservations about the cost and speed of implementing the moves especially in respect of medical records.

After lengthy discussions involving the Home Office and government whips, Mr Archie Kirkwood, Liberal MP for Roxburgh and Berwickshire and the main sponsor of the bill, said yesterday the Government had indicated it was prepared to allow the second reading to proceed. But ministers reserved the

right to "trim some of the schedule" which sets out the areas in which the bill will give greater access.

In particular, this means that greater access will be limited to education, housing and social welfare records but will not be extended to social benefit, employment, banking, building society, credit and immigration records, except where these are already covered under the Computerised Record provisions of the Data Protection Act. To ensure that there is no extra cost to the Treasury, the Government is insisting on an access charge.

A Home Office spokesman said yesterday that discussions between Mr David Waddington, a minister of state at the department, and Mr Kirkwood, were so far "without commitment" and at this stage discussions were not resolved.

Mr Kirkwood said the bill's sponsors would continue to press for the inclusion of health records, and he pointed out that the bill would allow the Government to lay orders extending its scope.

Among its Conservative Party backers is Mr Steve Norris, the MP for Oxford East, who has played a close part in the discussions on the shape of the bill and who yesterday stressed that the Government was not opposed to the principle of the measures it contains.

'Turning point' for components

BY JOHN GRIFFITHS

THE UK motor industry is at a "turning point" which should see rising production and profitability for the components sector although total new car sales are likely to diminish this year and next, the FT London Motor Conference was told yesterday.

Mr Bob Barber, investment analyst with stockbrokers Phillips and Drew, forecast a 20 per cent increase in the profitability of the motor components sector this year.

It would be helped by UK car production increasing by about 4 per cent as a result of Ford and Vauxhall sourcing more of their sales from their UK plants, said Mr Barber. Demand for replacement parts would also grow, due to a rapidly increasing population of four to seven-year-old cars on the road.

He said the UK was witnessing "a major change in the fortunes of its motor industry," which included a discernible recovery for Austin Rover. "We believe Austin Rover's market share should at least stabilise this year and possibly claw back a percentage point or more."

This would be achieved against the background of a drop in UK new car sales this year to 1.85m from a record 1.88m last year and a further fall to 1.77m in 1988.

There would be "spectacular" growth in the use of electronics in cars over the coming years, which would strengthen the position of franchised car dealers in the after-

FT
London Motor
Conference

market for parts and servicing. Mr John Hardiman, Ford of Europe's vice president, parts and service operations, told the conference.

He said that a forecast doubling of the electronic content of US-produced cars, to 20 per cent of each vehicle's cost by the end of the century, would be "closely reflected" in European cars.

Such cars' specifications would include anti-lock braking, automatic ride control and traction control systems, in addition to electronic engine management.

"This has major implications for vehicle manufacturers and service outlets particularly, since a characteristic of electronic components is that, when malfunctions occur, they can be obscure and difficult to trace," said Mr Hardiman.

It would thus become very difficult for non-franchised outlets to provide the expensive equipment and specialist training needed to handle such electronic systems.

The prospect of an "invasion" of

Europe by Japanese component manufacturers to supply Europe-based Japanese car plants was discounted by Mr Ian Gibson, deputy managing director of Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK), which expects to produce 24,000 cars at its Tyne and Wear plant this year, increasing to 100,000 in 1989-90.

Mr Gibson said Japanese component producers had heavy fixed investments in their Japanese plants and that to set up substantial manufacturing facilities in Europe would undermine them.

Their reluctance to set up facilities would help create expanded export opportunities for UK and European components suppliers, he suggested. For example, his own company followed a policy that, once it had reached an agreement with a supplier, it was for the long term and "you would have to do something wrong not to remain a supplier."

Such arrangements, he said, were of considerable potential for UK component makers in particular who, he said, had suffered from "too many short production runs of too many parts."

Long-term arrangements with his company, he suggested, would also provide suppliers with the security to make investments in productivity improvements which they had been reluctant to undertake in the past.

However, Professor K. Bhaskar, director of the Motor Industry Research Unit based at University of

East Anglia, said he felt there would be a "third wave" of Japanese penetration into Europe's motor industry, of Japanese components suppliers intent on serving first Japanese car makers and also of European producers.

Part of the attraction, he said, was a sharp expansion of the Japanese car population in Europe, which, he forecast, would reach between 30 and 45 per cent of the total by the end of the century. Prof Bhaskar discussed a number of strategies which European components suppliers could adopt to fend off the threat.

Mr Tom Farmer, chief executive of Kwik-Fit, the fast fit replacement parts operator, recounted some of the history of his company's expansion in the market and emphasised the importance of training in success.

He said Kwik-Fit's turnover would exceed £100m for the first time this year and its outlets would reach 340 by the end of this month.

The strategies by which Halfords is executing its plans to capture a bigger slice of the UK parts and accessories market were outlined by Mr Roger Pedder, chairman and chief executive of Ward White Retail (UK).

He said Halfords now accounted for 8 per cent of the total market, with substantial growth yet to come, through its twin-pronged attack via traditional high street outlets and edge of town superstores.

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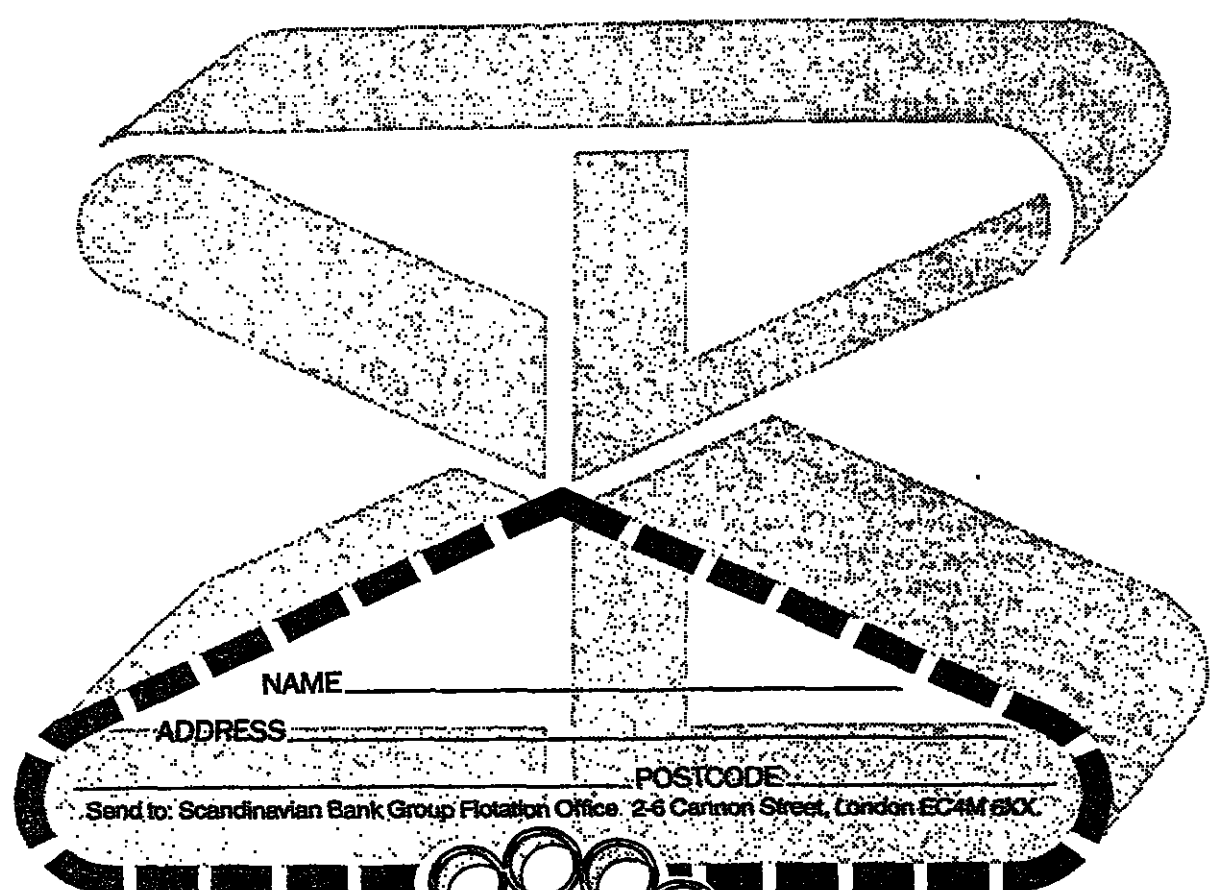
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UK NEWS

BR chief urges changes in rail supply industry

BY KEVIN BROWN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

SIR ROBERT REID, chairman of British Rail, has called for changes in the structure of the European railway supply industry to speed up technological development.

In a speech to the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in London, Sir Robert appeared to advocate mergers among the largely private suppliers of railway equipment.

His comments appeared unlikely to be well received by British manufacturers. Mr David Gillan, director of the Railway Industry Association, described his speech as "a gross over-simplification."

Mr Gillan said informal discussions on the future of the industry had already taken place among manufacturers. But he questioned whether the chairman of the industry's largest UK customer should campaign publicly on the issue.

The UK equipment supply industry includes many companies, but the important traction and rolling stock is dominated by only four

companies, all of which have significant international reputations.

These are British Rail Engineering (BRE), Brush Electrical Machines, GEC Traction, and Metro-Cammell. All four are already co-operating in the development of an international train for use in the proposed Channel Tunnel, and are expected to open talks with the French manufacturer Alstom shortly.

Sir Robert said BR's policy of competitive procurement had succeeded in "putting on suppliers to meet our needs both in technical and commercial terms."

"But the size of the home market for railway equipment is rapidly shrinking. It is clear that the multiplicity of suppliers will not be able to survive in such circumstances. There are too many small producers who do not have adequate resources to develop new technology."

Sir Robert said the European automotive and aerospace industries

had benefited from the strength of the small number of companies involved, who were able to develop their technology rapidly.

This makes me think that similarly in the railway field we should have a European scale of industry able to push railway technology forward at a more rapid rate to meet the new demanding business requirements," he said.

Sir Robert said the decision to go ahead with the Channel Tunnel, subject to ratification by parliament, presented a unique opportunity to British industry. Not only was there substantial work to be obtained, but the tunnel was a truly European project, and on the grand scale.

This was an opportunity for the British industry to form partnerships with other European companies to meet these requirements.

"I hope this will be the beginning of a European scale of supply industry for the railways," he said.

Belfast wins £28m in aid for inner city

By Our Belfast Correspondent

A £28m package of government aid to regenerate some of Belfast's worst inner city areas was announced yesterday by Mr Richard Needham, Environment Minister for the Northern Ireland Office.

It coincided with news that a £5m multi-storey car park, shop and office complex is to be built in the city by developers Ewart New Northern, creating 100 jobs.

The government aid will be provided under a three-year programme to be known as "the Belfast initiatives." It is expected to trigger significant private-sector spending.

Mr Needham said that infrastructure and associated works were needed in run-down parts of the inner city, including areas along the River Lagan.

He said the Government would set up "action teams" involving local communities to identify the main needs and to co-ordinate ways of meeting them. The first area selected for this treatment includes parts of Belfast which experienced most of the civil unrest of the 1970s.

Plan for river bus service on Thames

BY KEVIN BROWN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a commuter river bus service on the Thames were announced yesterday by a company seeking to raise £10m through the Business Expansion Scheme.

Thames Line, which has the support of the Port of London Authority and the Thames Water Authority, said proving trials using two boats would start in the summer. Up to eight boats would enter service in 1988 between Chelsea and Greenwich.

Services would leave at 15-minute intervals, stopping initially at eight piers, including two at London Bridge and another on the Isle of Dogs, where a major office development is planned at Canary Wharf.

Thames Line said the journey time between Chelsea Harbour and the City of London would be 20 minutes, less than the equivalent journey by land transport. Greenwich to the City would take 12 minutes.

Services would be extended downstream to Woolwich and the London City Airport in 1989. Fares would be based on those charged by London Regional Transport, with flat fares of 50p in the inner zone

between Westminster and London Bridge and £1 in the outer zone.

The Port of London Authority, which is responsible for navigation on the river, said more than 1m passengers were expected to use the service next year.

The share issue, which offers full tax relief to investors prepared to retain their investment for five years, is underwritten for £2.5m by Johnson Fry, a licensed dealer in securities which is the UK's leading sponsor of BES issues.

The Daily Telegraph group, which is relocating from Fleet Street to the London docklands, has also invested £20,000 and plans to use one of the boats to ferry staff to its new offices in the Isle of Dogs.

Thames Line plans to use up to 45 per cent of the money raised through the share issue to develop riverside property, which, it says, will provide finance for future expansion of the river bus system.

Mr Robert Crouch, managing director of Thames Line, said the development of London's docklands would create a large market for fast river transport.

Publishers protest at dearer newsprint

By Tony Jackson

BRITAIN'S newspaper publishers have protested strongly over a forthcoming increase in the price of newsprint. A recently announced rise of 9.5 per cent from June will bring the total to 16 per cent over eight months, according to the Newspaper Association.

Mr Bruce Matthews, of News International, speaking for the association, said: "I do not believe we can easily pass this increase on. Many advertising rate cards are being cut by 25 per cent or 30 per cent already."

The newsprint increase would require a rise of at least 1p in the cover price of popular papers such as the Daily Mail or Daily Express, he said, adding: "I don't believe the market can take cover price increases."

Scandinavian producers, led by Finland, announced the forthcoming increase from £365 to £400 a tonne earlier this month. It will follow a 6 per cent increase put through last October.

Producers have argued that UK prices are between 15 per cent and 20 per cent below some other European markets, partly because of the weakness of sterling.

UK and Canadian suppliers of newsprint have yet to follow the Scandinavian initiative, but are expected to do so. Mr Matthews argued that they did not have the same case for an increase, since UK costs had remained the same and the Canadian dollar had weakened against sterling.

"We believe that we should get a special price from the home producers," he said. "The Government has encouraged them through special grants and relief, and we have given our support too." The UK industry had also lobbied on the Canadian industry's behalf to maintain its duty-free quota to the EEC, he said.

Mr Matthews said he could see nothing to justify the scale of the Scandinavian increase either. "If the home mills did not follow this increase, the Nordic producers would back off," he claimed.



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UK NEWS

Paul Betts and Andrew Taylor report on French dismay at UK Tunnel traumas

A dim view over the Channel

FRENCH PARTNERS in the Channel Tunnel project are clearly embarrassed by the latest problems on the English side. These include the resignation on Monday of Sir Nigel Brookes, chairman of the Anglo-French consortium, the property and construction group, from the Eurotunnel board, a week after Lord Pennock said he intended to step down as the British joint chairman of the Anglo-French consortium.

As the fresh difficulties began to arise over recent weeks the French have, however, been portraying them as a British problem — or an "Anglo-British problem," as one banker closely involved with the project emphatically put it. It was up to the British side to resolve them, he said.

The French are anxious to avoid a re-run of the difficulties Eurotunnel had in raising £200m in an institutional share placing last October. A further £750m international share sale is planned for July.

The French blame the British for having initially been too optimistic about the institutional placing and not negotiating it tightly and rigorously enough to avoid a last-minute panic. The French found their side relatively smooth, having prepared the ground and formed a "tour de table," or the equivalent of an informal syndicate to place the paper.

One member of the French construction consortium said: "At the beginning, we thought Britain would clearly have the financial expertise in the project, while the French would lead the technical side. However, I think we have been mistaken, and the French

should also have led the financial side from the beginning."

Members of the French consortium acknowledge that they have not faced the same pressures as their British counterparts, because the Channel Tunnel has not provoked the same political passions in France.

The troubles in the UK are, none the less, seen as bad news for a project which will need all the good publicity it can get to make the £750m placing a success. "The last thing we needed was a new problem in the UK which risks denting the tunnel's image if it is not resolved quickly and elegantly," one official remarked.

The French also find it ironic that London is now the main obstacle to the smooth launch of the venture. London is widely perceived in France to have sought to dominate the overall management of the project. Meanwhile, the Bank of England, closely concerned by the recent management upheavals, fears that the French will end up dominating the scheme unless a stronger British chairman can be found.

The French partners are keen to see Eurotunnel build up a strong public identity. "Eurotunnel still has to emerge as a credible company with its own individual identity and not just a grouping of partners. It's no mean task," another official said.

While the French partners point out diplomatically that the resignation of Lord Pennock is a British affair, there has been a feeling that it might be preferable to appoint a more charismatic and media-conscious personality to head the British side.

At one stage it appeared that Sir Nigel Brookes, who joined the consortium last October, might have been a candidate. One of the reasons for his departure from Eurotunnel has been the opposition of some of the British and French contractors, who resented his recent arrival on the board.

The French contractors feared that Sir Nigel's promotion would create a powerful axis between the Anglo-French consortium and the Anglo-Dutch oil group, Mr Francis Bouygues, chairman of France's biggest construction group.

The two men, powerful and charismatic figures, are good friends. Bouygues is already a leading member of the French side of the consortium and the company recently formed a joint venture with Trafalgar House to tender for private water supply and sewerage contracts in the UK and elsewhere.

The fear that the two chairmen would dominate the other contractors has now been removed. Sir Nigel was told that he could not have a leading role in the consortium and expect his company, Trafalgar House, to be considered for substantial contracts for the £5bn tunnel.

The French must now wait to see whom they will have to deal with when Lord Pennock stands down. A successor is expected to be appointed shortly, possibly after a board meeting in Paris this Friday.

Meanwhile, there is satisfaction in Paris with the way the French

part of the consortium is taking shape. Mr André Benard, the new French joint chairman, has quickly become accepted and respected as a resolute but flexible manager.

"He is proving the perfect manager for the consolidation phase of the project. He is pulling the French consortium together admirably," remarked a leading French banker. He also impressed British institutional shareholders at a meeting in London last month.

As a member of the Royal Dutch Shell board and an old hand of the Anglo-Dutch oil group, Mr Benard appears to have been displaying his talents as a multinational manager. He replaced Mr Jean-Paul Parayre, formerly chairman of the Peugeot car group and now managing director of the Dumez construction concern, who played a significant role in promoting the tunnel project in its initial phases.

The French feel they are, in the words of one official, "getting their act together" and would like to see London do the same.

The French emphasise the importance of giving the consortium a solid image, of promoting the project to give it the prominence it still lacks in France, and ensuring that the banking syndicate arrangements are watertight before this summer's crucial public share offer.

As one Paris banker put it: "Selling the tunnel to the public won't be as easy as selling Paribas or Saint Gobain shares. The irony is that the French, for once, appear to be more phlegmatic than the British in this affair."

Rover Group sells Australian subsidiary

BY KENNETH GOODING

ROVER GROUP, the state-owned car maker, has sold its Australian subsidiary JRA to a management consortium for A\$86.8m (25m).

However, Rover is to take 20 per cent of the new company formed for the buy-out, JRA Holdings. So its actual proceeds from the sale will be A\$53.28m. Jaguar, the car maker Rover sold back to the private sector two years ago, will also subscribe for 20 per cent.

The JRA management, including Mr Phil Hovell, the managing director, holds 15 per cent of the new company. This stake could be increased to 25 per cent if certain performance targets are reached over the next five years.

Other members of the buy-out consortium are Citicorp Capital Investors Australia and Byvest, a company formed to sponsor management buy-outs in Australia.

The price corresponds to the un-audited net assets of JRA at August 31 last year. Rover yesterday received A\$51.6m of the consideration. A\$15m will be payable in 1989.

Apart from assembling Land Rovers and selling Rover cars (including the new executive Rover 800), Range Rovers, Jaguars and Leyland buses from Britain, JRA also sells Peugeot cars from France and Hino buses from Japan. It dominates the Australian bus and coach

industry through the Denning, Leyland and PMC marques which it assembles locally.

JRA has a volatile profit record. It made a taxable profit of A\$27.1m on a turnover of A\$247m in 1985, up from A\$21.8m on sales of A\$209m the previous year.

However, Mr Hovell gave a warning that 1986 profits would be hit by falling demand for luxury cars in Australia after the imposition of a luxury car tax, a sharp increase in the price of imported cars caused by the devaluation of the Australian dollar and high interest rates.

The pre-tax profit for the 10 months to November 1 was A\$9.8m, and the audited net assets then

were A\$69.2m after the redemption of A\$12.5m of preference shares since December 1985.

Mr Graham Day, Rover's chairman, reversed the previous board's decision not to sell JRA. It is the second Rover company to be disposed of since his arrival last May.

Arrangements are being made to sell Istel, the computer systems subsidiary, Llanelli Radiator, a components producer, and Unipart, the spare parts business.

Rover is discussing with DAF of the Netherlands and Paccar of the US the possible sale of Leyland Trucks and the Freight Rover van operations.

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ITALIAN INDUSTRY

Fiat and Hitachi launch assault on Europe's excavator market

BY NICK GARNETT

FIAT-HITACHI, the recently announced joint manufacturing venture between Fiatallis, the construction equipment division of the Fiat group and Hitachi of Japan, is aiming to raise substantially the share of the two companies in the European hydraulic excavator market.

The joint venture involves the setting up of a manufacturing plant at San Mauro near Turin to produce 2,500 excavators a year, though the facility will have the capacity to produce up to 3,000 units.

Fiatallis and Hitachi each sell about 800 excavators a year in Europe, but Mr. Gian Carlo Vezzali, chairman and managing director of Fiatallis, said the intention was to sell 2,000 units in total in Europe once the plant comes fully on stream in 1989.

This implies that Fiat-Hitachi intends taking market share off Pöclain, the French offshoot of Tenneco, the US group, and the three West German producers Liebherr, Orenstein and Koppel, and Atlas.

Fiatallis has 25 per cent of the Italian hydraulic excavator market at present, but only around 5 or 6 per cent of the rest of the European market.

The joint venture, which follows the imposition of 12 per cent EEC anti-dumping duties on Hitachi excavators two years ago, is one of a number recently signed by major construction machinery makers.

These include that between Caterpillar of the US and Mitsubishi, which covers their hydraulic excavator ranges, and between Komatsu and the Brown group in which Brown will manufacture some of its



Gian Carlo Vezzali: "Venture gives Fiatallis access to Hitachi's technology."

Many range of articulated dumpers to be sold under the Komatsu name. Komatsu has also begun to produce from a new facility in the UK a range of six hydraulic excavators from 12 to 30 tonnes.

San Mauro—51 per cent owned by Fiat and 49 per cent by Hitachi—will manufacture 10 Hitachi-designed excavators, seven with crawler tracks ranging from 12 to 45 tonnes and three-wheel mounted models from 12 to 18 tonnes. Fiatallis says the excavators, to be sold under the Fiat-Hitachi name, will have more than 80 per cent EEC content with some of the

hydraulics being the only significant engineered product brought in from Japan.

Hitachi will continue to make excavators in Japan, both in the 12 to 45 tonnes range and its mini excavators under 8 tonnes. Fiatallis, however, will phase-out next year its existing range of rather outdated models of which it has been producing about 1,000 a year. Its total output will come from the San Mauro facility which will employ 800.

The new company, with a forecast yearly turnover of \$180m, will have exclusive marketing rights for its range of hydraulic excavators in Western Europe, the Mediterranean countries and Africa, except South Africa.

In the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, the Middle and Far East, Fiatallis and Hitachi will sell under their own brand names with Hitachi having exclusive rights in Japan and a large part in Asia.

In the US, excavators manufactured at San Mauro will be marketed by Fiatallis. Hitachi will also continue to sell direct into the US and will continue to supply hydraulic excavators to John Deere, which, with American engines and other US-made components, are sold as John Deere machines.

Worldwide demand for excavators in 1985 was 45,000 units of which 21,000 were sold in Japan.

Fiat-Hitachi has already begun to merge the Fiatallis and Hitachi dealer networks in Europe. These dealers will have access to the Fiatallis range of other construction equipment

which includes wheel and crawler loaders and dozers. They will also be able to sell the mini excavator range of Hitachi whose construction machinery operations make no equipment other than excavators.

Merging of the dealer networks is due to be finished within a year though Mr Vezzali said it could take longer than this.

Mr Vezzali said the joint venture gave Fiatallis a new range of modern excavators, access to the Hitachi dealer network which was relatively well developed in the UK, Belgium and Norway, and to Hitachi's manufacturing technology.

Hitachi benefited by linking its excavators to the broader product range sold by the new Fiat-Hitachi dealers and by having access to Fiatallis dealer networks in Italy, Spain and France.

Outside the Fiat-Hitachi joint venture, Mr Vezzali said Fiatallis might soon examine whether to expand its range of backhoe loaders of which the British company, J.C. Bamford, is the world's largest producer.

Fiatallis only began production of backhoe loaders in 1983 and makes 450 units a year of one basic 7000hp model. More than 60 per cent of output is sold in Italy, the rest in Spain and France.

Mr Vezzali also said that Fiatallis expected to increase its share of the European market for wheel loaders. Excluding Italy, where it has a third of the market, Fiatallis claims 5 per cent of the market with its range of 70hp to 350hp models.

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Particulars of the Notes are available in the Exel Statistical Services. Copies of the Listing Particulars may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday up to and including 20th February from the Company Announcements Office of The Stock Exchange and up to and including 4th March, from—

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18th February, 1987

German court orders bank to disclose more

BY A. H. HERMANN, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT, IN KARLSRUHE

A DEFEAT suffered by the Deutsche Bank in the German Federal Supreme Court last week is bound to result in a greater transparency of bank balance sheets and profit-and-loss accounts in West Germany. It is also likely to harden the ban on German companies dealing in their own shares.

Deutsche Bank—West Germany's largest bank which controls an important industrial empire—was sued by one of its shareholders, who contested the validity of the annual meeting's approval of the bank's annual accounts on the grounds that the board had refused to provide complete information about its industrial investments and the bank's acquisition of its own shares.

The court confirmed the shareholder's claim on both counts thus driving a coach and horses through the present

assumptions about the limited disclosure requirements for German banks.

Repeated attempts to restrict large industrial holdings by German banks, and by Deutsche Bank in particular, spearheaded by several recommendations of the German Monopolies Commission, has so far had only modest success. However, from January 1, 1985, such "participation" together with the bank's own property assets must not be greater than the paid-up capital and disclosed reserves taken together.

There is a statutory assumption that a holding of more than 25 per cent of equity in a non-bank is "participation" and not just a part of a transient portfolio of securities. Until now, a bank could disprove this statutory assumption by a simple declaration that it did not intend to hold the shares as a permanent asset. This enabled banks to classify "participations" as "securities" even a 50 per cent interest held over several decades could be submerged in the securities account in this way.

The court put an end to this cosy arrangement. Banks will have to show objective reasons why a holding of 25 per cent or more should not be considered a "participation."

The decision will also cast some light in the notoriously obscure profit and loss accounts of German banks. These are allowed to aggregate profits and losses from dealing in securities—but not those resulting from participations—with the results of its credit and other banking operations. The decision will oblige banks to disclose the results of banking business proper, on the one hand, and of industrial invest-

ments, on the other, separately. The second unanswered question of the dissatisfied shareholder called for explanation of the bank's share buy-back.

This is, in principle, prohibited to all companies, with certain exceptions narrowly defined in Section 71 of the Companies Act. Particularly, a buy-back may be justified by the need to avoid an immediate serious threat of damage to the company.

The board of Deutsche Bank answered the shareholder's question by recalling the text of Section 71. The supreme court said that this was not enough. The board had to spell out the actual reasons which led it to acquire its own shares so as to enable shareholders to form their own opinion whether or not section 71/1 was satisfied.

FINANCIAL TIMES
INSURANCE AND
INSURANCE
BROKING

The Financial Times proposes to publish an in-depth Survey on Insurance and Insurance Broking on April 4, 1987. Among the subjects reviewed will be:

1. The major world Insurance Markets
2. Profiles on major International Direct Insurances and Insurance Brokers
3. Information Technology
4. Leading Analysts views on trends within the Industry
5. Life Assurance and Pensions

For more information about advertising in this Survey and a copy of the synopsis, contact Brian Kalaart, David Reed or Michael Bamphyde on 01-248 8000, extensions 3286, 3461 and 4008.

The content, size and publication dates of Surveys in the Financial Times are subject to change at the discretion of the Editor.

FINANCIAL TIMES
EUROPE'S BUSINESS NEWSPAPER

DOME PETROLEUM LIMITED

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that as a result of a holder of a 6% Note 1980-1986 of Dome Petroleum Limited in the amount of 50,000 Swiss Francs which was due on October 31, 1986 having commenced legal proceedings to enforce payment thereof, the waiver contained in sub-clause 2(b) of the Second Supplemental Trust Deeds and indentures dated as of 28 October, 1986 in respect of the Notes and Debentures has terminated.

Dome Petroleum Limited is continuing to develop a Restructuring Plan with its lenders. Although the plan is yet to be finalized, details of the plan will be made available to the Holders of the Notes and Debentures for the purpose of the meetings which will be called to consider and, if thought fit, approve the plan.

Dome Petroleum Limited
Dated 18 February, 1987

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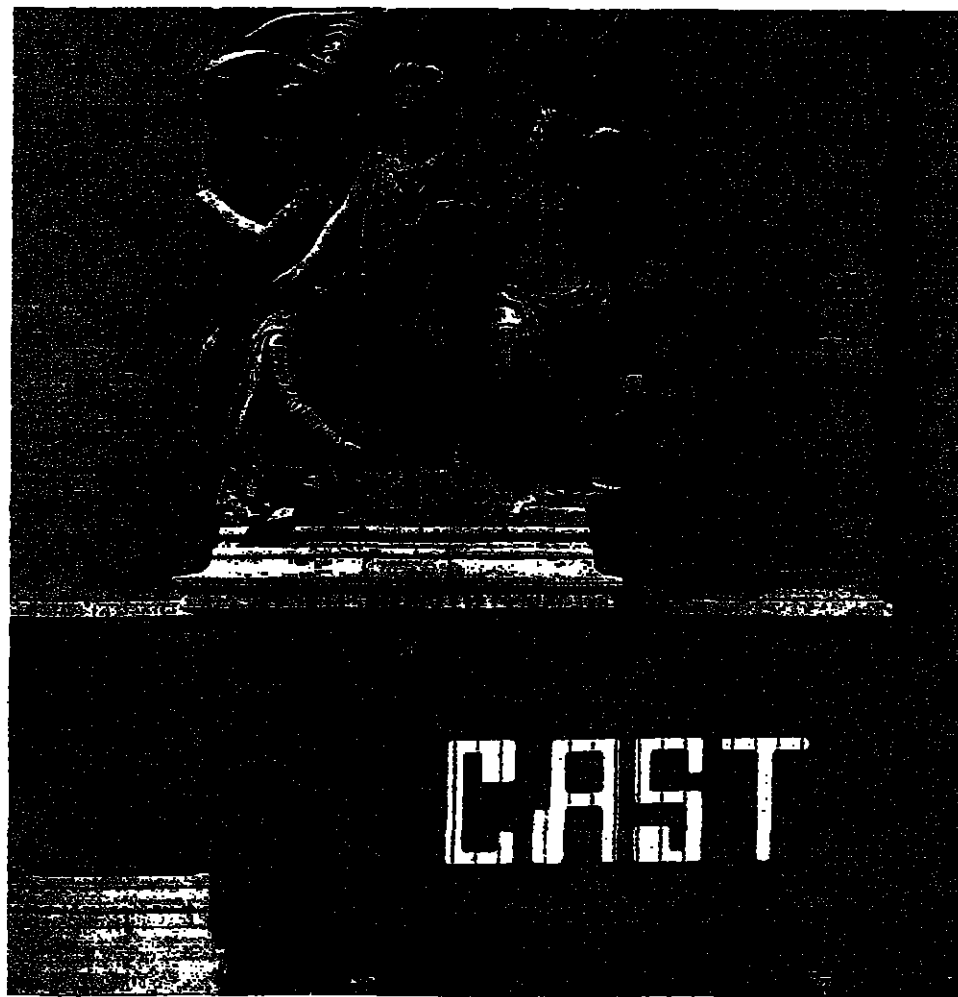
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Now you know the secret of our success. But if you wish to emulate it, you'll have some catching up to do.

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A company from over here that's also doing rather well over there.

MANAGEMENT

VG Instruments

The man who inspired an empire of entrepreneurs

Peter Marsh reports on the unusual common factor behind a diverse group of companies

ONE OF the few undoubted UK high-technology success stories of the past two decades is VG Instruments, a Sussex-based maker of scientific instruments. The concern, which celebrates its quarter century this year, has splintered into 12 subsidiaries, and in 1985 had sales of £66m, of which £14m was profit.

Much of the credit is due to Bernard Eastwell, the company's managing director and joint founder. Eastwell is a quietly spoken, highly entrepreneurial figure renowned for his quick decisions and for his ability to spot profitable commercial opportunities.

At the core of Eastwell's philosophy is the so-called "product champion" concept by which people within his company are given responsibility to move into novel areas of technology, ultimately taking over the running of a new subsidiary set up to exploit the ideas.

In this way, the 1,600-person VG has moved rapidly into new fields including microscopes, semiconductor equipment, data communications, surface analysis, software and mass spectrometers. As part of the process, VG has expanded geographically, setting up during the 1970s a series of subsidiaries in the Chesire area to complement its activities in Sussex. The company is also a renowned exporter, selling four-fifths of its products overseas.

A less well-known part of the VG story is that the instrument maker has been an unusually fertile breeding ground for new high-tech companies, set up outside the VG empire. Ex-VG employees have started no fewer than 21 such concerns, most of them in the past 10 years. Many of the companies sell similar types of instruments to those developed by VG, while others have branched into new areas such as electronics or general engineering.

VG sets out to instill in its employees entrepreneurial attitudes which, fairly often, lead these people to take the plunge in starting on their own. At the

SPIN-OFFS

Hidden Analytical, Warrington, Instruments.
Leak Engineering, Burgess Hill, Instruments.
Sempip, Burgess Hill, Vacuum products.
Horizon Instruments, Heathfield, Instruments.
Europa Scientific, Crewe, Instruments.
Instruments.
Analysers Products, Wigan, Instruments.
Leigh Technology, Newcastle under Lyme, Instruments.
Cryogenic and Vacuum Technology, Milton Keynes, Vacuum products.
Cambridge Mass Spectrometry Instruments.
CJS Sciences, Middlesbrough, Engineering.
Vasewid, East Grinstead, Welding.
Airspec, Biggin Hill, Instruments.
Ormicom Vakuumphysik, Frankfurt, West Germany, Instruments.
Gamed, Hastings, Engineering.
Autotec, Hastings, Electronics.

* Spin-off which is now part of VG Instruments group.

THE EXTENDED FAMILY

Metec, Uckfield, Electronics.
Softel, Reading, Electronics.
Spectramass, Congleton, Instruments.
Spectra-Metrica, Congleton, Instruments.
VSW Scientific Instruments, Manchester, Instruments.
U Micro, Warrington, Electronics.
Subsidiaries:
Vacuum Generators, Hastings.
VG Analytical, Manchester.
VG Electronics, Hastings.
VG Gas Analysis, Middlesbrough.
VG Ionex, East Grinstead.
VG Isogas, Middlesbrough.
VG Isotopes, Warrington.
VG Laboratory Systems, Altrincham.
VG Masslab, Altrincham.
VG Quadrupoles, Warrington.
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Semiconductor equipment.
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same time, the strain of working for a thriving, fast-moving organisation has led to many employees leaving, or being persuaded to leave, and opting for a quieter life working for themselves.

Gaining a job at VG seems to produce schizophrenic effects. Many VG alumni found their time at the company exhilarating. "VG has been at the forefront of technology and has done more for UK industry than people have appreciated," says Alan Baxendale, managing director of Burgess Hill-based Leak Engineering, Baxendale, who started his firm in 1982 after 14 years with Eastwell's company, recalls: "It was a good training ground for running your own business."

Others remember mainly the stress. "The company's incentive scheme was fear of the sack," says Mike Lynch, who left to form Mass Analyser Products in Wigan, Lancashire. Ron Ferguson, who worked for VG for 12 years and now runs Cryogenic and Vacuum Technology in Milton Keynes, says of his former employer: "It was

a very energetic company. You would either get burned out or fired."

Michael Dent, who was at VG for 10 years and is now managing director of Spectramass, a maker of mass spectrometers in Congleton, Cheshire, explains VG's approach: "They find good technicians and give them financial backing. The company manages to strike an incredible self-motivation in people. People gave the company a lot of their lives, often at the expense of their marriages or their health. It was hard work and not everyone did well out of it—but it was exciting."

More evidence of this love-hate relationship comes from Russell Strawson, who departed three years ago to set up Vasewid, a welding concern in East Grinstead. "The nature of the business was haphazard and they expected a lot of people. But I miss working for VG a lot."

The pattern of developments at VG has revolved very much around Eastwell. The physicist started the company with a colleague, Vic Treasure, who

has since retired—in a couple of garages in Crawley. Both men had worked for Mullard, the UK electronics company owned by Philips of the Netherlands. Until 1978, Eastwell was the majority shareholder in the company. Following a decision by the directors to sell most of their shares, the company is now controlled by BAT, the tobacco conglomerate.

Eastwell is clearly a complex figure. Some former employees remember him as a remote person feared for his ruthlessness in getting rid of people. Others recall his personal charm. Eastwell once offered a lowly technician, working late a long way from home and without a hotel room, the use of his caravan. Another person, at the time extremely hard-up, was told he could borrow money from the company to buy a house.

Many ex-employees talk of the hectic pace at the VG companies, with 12-hour days the norm. John Hollands, a VG veteran of 21 years who left in 1985 to join Iontech, a Middlesbrough-based instruments concern, recalls Eastwell's "magnetism, which dragged you into working as hard as he did."

Dr Barry Griffiths, who spent four years at VG and is a joint founder of Cambridge Mass Spectrometry, says: "I worked long hours, not because I was told to but because of the atmosphere that was created." Two particularly senior people among the VG alumni are Dr John Waldron, a former chairman of the group who left in 1978, and Dr Peter Williams, who was deputy group managing director.

Waldron is now chairman of Spectros International, a £29m-turnover scientific instruments concern in Manchester, and Williams is chief executive of Oxford Instruments, a successful high-tech company in Oxford which specialises in cryogenic and magnet technology and semiconductor equipment.

Both men, who left to join established concerns rather than set up their own companies, say they admire VG for



Bernard Eastwell: satisfaction from seeing how he has stimulated people into becoming entrepreneurs themselves

its results. Williams, who left five years ago after an argument with Eastwell, says: "I take my hat off to them. They are one of Britain's success stories." But both have their doubts about the company's management style. "Logic and reason did not always count" when discussing business decisions with Eastwell, according to Waldron, while Williams thinks that Eastwell was sometimes autocratic and that the many splinterings from VG "held them back a bit."

What does Eastwell himself think of the large number of offshoots? "We were mostly sorry to see these people go. They left holes," he admits. "It is possible to overdrive people" by subjecting them to too great a pressure. On the other hand, says Eastwell, "there is some satisfaction through seeing how we have stimulated people" into becoming entrepreneurs themselves.

Outside observers feel too many defections from a single company can hurt the concern's business, simply because of the draining effect of a large amount of talent. Philip Modiano, a consultant for McKinsey who studies high-technology companies, notes that "successful companies often have obsessively committed managements which sometimes cause splinterings."

Of some interest is that few of the breakaway companies—Spectramass and VSW, both of which appear to have extremely promising products—look like repeating the runaway success of VG. VG was undoubtedly lucky in setting up at the right time. It was well placed to exploit the advances in physics and chemistry that were vital preconditions for the rapid establishment of the market for scientific instruments in the late 1960s and 1970s. The market now adds up to a global business worth nearly £2bn.

Offshoots from VG which sell scientific instruments have found it harder to compete with the giants of the industry because they set up later. The latter include Varian and Finnigan of the US and Leibold-Herz of West Germany, all of which, interestingly, have tried to buy VG.

Another reason for the success of VG, though, must be the personal drive of Eastwell, which few of his ex-employees either want to or seem able to match. "Make no mistake, we all burn the midnight oil," says Michael Gaffney, who was at VG for 12 years and is now managing director of Gamed Engineering, in Hastings. "But none of us wants an empire. Bernard, on the other hand, keeps on going."

BUSINESS PROBLEMS

Profits into pension

I am a self-employed contractor in the building industry and my year ending October 1985 showed a net profit of £19,250; October 1986 shows a net profit of £58,000.

I do not expect to have another year as good next year, and the best my bank seems to be able to come up with as a tax saving exercise is a pension plan, which I can put up to £19,000 into by back-tracking over the past six years giving me £11,300 tax relief.

This plan becomes difficult if I go limited in the foreseeable future, and it would also be difficult but not absolutely impossible to find this amount of money, bearing in mind trade debtors of around £25,000 at any time.

While your past trading year has finished and there may be little that you can do in respect of last year's profits earned in a self-employed capacity we do strongly recommend that you convert your business into a limited company—which should only cost you about £200.

You could own virtually all the shares and be the sole director but apart from the advantages of limited liability you could establish a small self-administered pension plan into which you could pay (depending on the salary and bonus you take out of the company) most if not all your profits at

the level you are discussing. The Inland Revenue permits you to borrow up to half of this fund which could cover the cash flow points to which you refer. Your fund could also invest in premises to be leased to your business.

We do warn you, however, against the large number of people who are now selling insurance hybrids and various imitations of the small self-administered pension plans so arranged as to enable vast amounts of commission to be paid to the person or organisation that gets its foot in your door. We recently heard from a reader who paid a first contribution of £60,000 into a scheme which he thought was a small self-administered pension plan to find that £32,000 of this money had been paid out to the salesman and after the insurance company had taken a cut for its overheads he was offered a mere £20,000 transfer value the following year when he had made up his mind to convert to a genuine self-administered scheme.

Make sure therefore that before you get locked in to any contractual arrangement that nothing is taken out of the money in your fund and that your company pays an above board fee (as opposed to hidden charges) to the specialist organisation that sets up your scheme.

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

Business courses

Second intensive Japan briefing for the European executive, London, April 6-10. Fee: Citizens of the European Community and employees of EC-based companies £525; fee for non-EC applicants available on request. Details from Graham Thomas, External Services Division, School of Oriental and African Studies, Mallet Street, London WC1E 7HP. Tel: 01-637 2388 ext 578/594. Closing date: March 27.

Management skills for women, London, March 23-24/November 16-17. Individual registration fee: £425 + VAT; fee for additional delegates £395 + VAT. Details from Monadnock International, 2 The Chapel, Royal Victoria Patriotic Building, Fitzhugh Grove, London SW18 3SC. Tel: 01-871 2546. Telex: 299180.

Marketing for the secretary/Customer contact skills for secretaries, London, March 25/26. Fee: each individual seminar £99 + VAT per person per day; special rate participants attending both meetings £175 + VAT. Details from Marketing Improvements, The Programme Secretary, 17 Ulster Terrace, Outer Circle, Regent's Park, London NW1 4PJ. Tel: 01-487 5811.

Getting results in sales training, London, April 8. Fee: Members of IM £120 + VAT; non-members £140 + VAT. Details from IM Marketing Training, Moor Hall, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 9QH. Tel: 06285 24922 ext 29.

How far will you go for total quality? International study tour: Japan/USA, March 6-21. Fee: £4,950 + VAT per person (10 per cent deposit payable in advance to secure place). Details from Sandra Macleod, Tour Co-ordinator, PA Management Consultants, Bowater House East, 68 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LJ. Tel: 01-589 7050. Telex: 295501. Fax: 01-589 2498.

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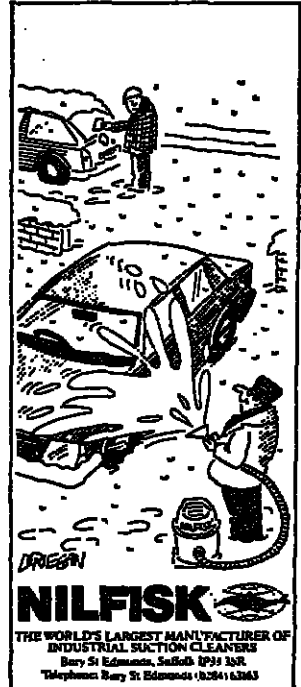
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THE ARTS

Television/Christopher Dunkley

Dirty tricks with little bits

Never judge an American drama series by the two-hour "special" which introduces it. Either the special is a one-off which proved so good that a whole series was commissioned, in which case the special will almost certainly be better than subsequent episodes, or else a series will have been planned and then a special commissioned to launch it, in which case the opening episode will be overstretching and considerably worse than subsequent episodes. Either way the special will be unrepresentative.

In the case of *L.A. Law* it looks as though we are dealing with the second circumstance. The long opening episode stumbled into a lot of familiar pitfalls: too many characters were introduced, too many subplots red herrings released. Yet the trademark of the series' creator, Steve Bochco, is already evident. His *Hill Street Blues* triumphed by depicting the police as neither saints in blue serge nor cynical pigs, but as diverse human beings attempting to do an impossible job. Similarly *L.A. Law* has already established that although the legal system may be a desperately and sometimes woundingly blunt instrument, wielded by some very dubious characters, it is still better than anything else yet invented. Bochco's flair is for seeing realistically imperfect people against a realistically imperfect system and extracting both realistic drama and humour from the results.

Mary Whitehouse has compiled a 30-minute videotape consisting of the bits that shocked her from *The Singing Detective* and from some of the late-night movies shown in Channel 4's "Special Discretion Required" symbol is used to ensure that all those watching have deliberately chosen to watch. Yesterday (having, no doubt, cleared copyright with all those involved) she was due to exhibit her peculiar little collection to the all-party Media Committee at the House of Commons as part of her campaign to have her tastes made law and imposed upon the rest of us.

Some of the works from which she has made such careful selections are pretty poor. *Therese*, for example, is in



Some of the cast of "L.A. Law"

my view largely incoherent and very tedious. *The Singing Detective*, on the other hand, is one of the best television series ever made, and the famous scenes are fundamental to the exploration of the mind of the central character. But whether the works are good or bad, the trick of taking out the "dirty" bits and showing them in isolation is disgraceful.

It is like chiselling the genitals of a Greek statue in the British Museum and holding up that little bit on the steps outside in order to condemn the entire collection as obscene. It is like hacking out the breasts from a Rubens nude and displaying the extract to suggest that the artist was dirty minded. It is like isolating the phrases "Kisses of his mouth... he shall lie all night without my breasts... on my bed... until the day break... he is altogether lovely... and his desire is toward me... sucked the breasts... make haste my beloved" from *The Song of Solomon* and using them as grounds for banning the Bible.

It is good to hear that *The Singing Detective* has attracted more nominations (11) than any other programme in this year's

BAFTA Awards, and encouraging to learn from a survey commissioned by C4 that 86 per cent of viewers regard the red triangle as either a good idea or a very good idea. As ever, despite all her desperate attempts to imply otherwise, Mrs Whitehouse represents a very small minority.

Over the years there have been some pretty awful situations comedies, but surely never anything quite so dreadful as *A Small Problem* on BBC2. In a fantasy Britain, everyone under five feet tall is designated "small" and persecuted. The idea is presumably an allegory for the persecution of blacks or homosexuals, but the material just is not funny. Clearly aware of this, the producer has resorted to the desperate measure of too much canned laughter, often at wholly inappropriate moments. This merely makes matters worse.

Every review of BBC's *Northanger Abbey* that I have read has concentrated on displaying the writer's deep and detailed understanding of Jane Austen's book. There have been great spluttering shows of outrage about the novel being traduced,

and one or two appreciations of the cunning of the adaptor, Maggie Wadley, in her use of television to produce parallels to the book.

I, having never read it (like the overwhelming majority of the audience, I daresay) came to the BBC2 version with the advantage of being able to see it as first-hand television rather than second-hand literature. Considered like that it was highly entertaining if occasionally bizarre — as in the scene where the ladies of Bath took to the waters fully dressed — and gently funny. The vaguest knowledge of the gothic novel was quite enough to appreciate the impingement of Catherine's fantasies upon her real life, and I for one would have welcomed more of the lurid Hammer-style dream sequences which were among the most effective parts of the drama.

Television is no more obliged to stick to the letter of Jane Austen than Shakespeare was to stick slavishly to Holinshed's *Northanger Abbey* and *The Chronicles* are both still there on the shelf, quite unchanged by their adaptors, for anyone who wants to read them.

Whoever is appointed Director-General of the BBC (and my money is now split three ways on accountant Michael Checkland, who is currently acting D-G, David Dimbleby and Jeremy Isaacs) he is going to have to launch out pretty promptly upon a sea of troubles which is getting rougher every day. In addition to the row over the Zircon spy satellite programme there is now the row over the play about the Falklands war which showed Mrs Thatcher in a sympathetic light and was "postponed," an affair which begins to look extremely murky judging by the extracts from Curlew's forthcoming book published in the Sunday Telegraph. There is also the problem of what to do about *Tumbledown*, Charles Wood's drama which questions the justice of the Falkland's campaign.

There is the closely connected difficulty over plans for a documentary about the Profumo affair in June which could — who knows — be election month. The expensive filmed drama *Slip Up*, about the

Ronnie Biggs saga (reviewed here last week) was pulled from the schedules in December and is still in limbo. And now the BBC's left hand seems to be arm-wrestling the BBC's right over the question of *Crossfire*, a five-part thriller set in Northern Ireland made by BBC Scotland, about which James Hawthorne, the BBC's highly respected Northern Ireland Controller, has serious reservations. The sooner somebody gets into the D-G's chair, the better, and at this moment an accountant — however good his accountancy — hardly seems the ideal choice.

Perhaps it is no great surprise that as Jack Rosenthal becomes more prolific his individual works become less impressive, yet it does seem a pity. In the last few weeks we have had *The Fools On The Hill* about the opening night of BBC television, *Day To Remember* with George Cole playing an old man who is losing his memory, and now *The Chain*. Each contained examples of the familiar Rosenthal elements such as detailed caricatures of particular types (the Sloane secretary in *Fools*, Cole's fussy wife, Warren Mitchell's removal man) and measured against the general standard of television drama all three were above average. But Rosenthal's earlier work — notably *The Ecceleses*, *Barmistock Boy* and *The Knowledge* — led us to expect something considerably better than that. I suspect that the form of *The Chain* with its long series of interlinked characters may have been inspired by the success of *The Knowledge*, but in the removals drama merge the portmanteau element turned out to be a weakness rather than a strength.

Every now and then Arena comes up with a programme in which form and subject merge to make an extraordinarily satisfying whole. Last week's "Confessions Of Robert Crumb," produced by Mary Dickinson, was a good example. It conveyed the life story of the American strip artist who created such immortals as Fritz the Cat and Mr Natural in a manner which precisely matched the man's eccentricity, exploiting his chosen medium, the comic strip, to telling effect.

More Light/Bush

Martin Hoyle

Commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company to translate Giordano Bruno's most famous comedy, Snoo Wilson went off at his own imaginative tangent. The RSC made do with another (fairly disastrous) version of *Il Candelaio*, and now the ever enterprising pub theatre in Shepherd's Bush has come up with Wilson's own stab at a commedia erudita: an intriguing gallimaufry of fact and fantasy in which the Renaissance heretic finds himself in a heaven that includes Elizabeth I, the wizard Dr Dee and his medium Kelly (part Ariel, part Caliban) and Shakespeare (a woman, by the way). Bruno, ex-monk, philosopher, some time resident of Elizabeth's court, is suspended between life and death as the Pope, invested with Stuart Wilson's tones of harsh authority, pursues him as both judge and jury like cunning old Fury. The first of the evening's *Alice* echoes, Robin Don's celestial set is well worth laying siege to: a curved ramp that dwindles into the silver tail of a comet about which a zodiac encircling a globe, a medieval map kept in place with the three bands of the papal tiara looming over a relief of the eternal city. All beautiful, but the Bush tradition of fine detail.

The play rambles. It needs pruning and the jokes need sharper pointing. But it provides some good set pieces as when Mr Wilson (Stuart) re-

counts the Pope's pursuit of Bruno into heaven in the shape of a bluebird (*The Fly* was never like this), swayed by the Virgin Queen and half-drowned in Shakespeare's inkwell. The latter is busy with *Love's Labour's Lost*, coincidentally depicting Bruno as Berowne. Or he may have finished it already since another *Alice* touch—"it's the way time goes here. You never know if you're ahead of yourself or behind."

The mechanics of the plot get out of hand and entail Elizabeth sacrificing her virginity to save heaven. Only she doesn't. The privilege goes to the celestial barnard with the menu on her bottom who coyly claims to be from Mummeret before admitting, "Reely, I'm an earth spirit, me... Maybe you'd like to come home with me. My dad's Baechus." Whatever the danger of corn in such lines, Caroline Holdaway triumphantly makes the part wickedly and unexpectedly funny, marking the arrival of a splendid comic actress (Jacquetta in LLL, for a start).

After haggling over life and death, Bruno's execution in 1600 dissolves into a World War 2 air raid: there is no escape. Karl Johnson brings a cheerfully relaxed air to his usual haggard intensity as the renegade egg-head. Mr Wilson (Snoo) lets the female Shakespeare pester out as a character, so not much of a look-in for Lizzy McInerney, but the play's most striking performance comes from Roman Vibert's half-naked Kelly, the wizard's assistant. He writhes and strains with frustrated lust, looking amazingly like an embryonic Alan Rickman. Simon Stokes and the author direct this fantasy which, for all its disjointedness, has an original quality. Mr Wilson still defies categorisation among contemporary playwrights. And the sacred scarab beetle that crawls round the set is a real rarity in W12.



Roman Vibert

Heaven Bent, Hell Bound/Cheltenham

B. A. Young

Why do we so neglect the Golden Age of Spanish drama? We may know that Don Juan first appeared in Tirso de Molina's *El Burlador de Sevilla*, but we won't have seen the play produced. There have been fringe productions of Calderón's *La vida es sueño*, but who have ever seen *El Burlador*?

725 recorded plays! Now here is the Actors' Touring Company, with Tirso's earlier piece, *El condenado por desconfiado*, which in John Clifford's witty adaptation is called *Heaven Bent, Hell Bound*, and it proves as exciting and entertaining as any piece could want.

Characteristic of its time, it has a theological theme, but no one need be put off by this. The argument is as keen as a modern political dispute, and contains a potent charge of humanity verging on the romantic. Mr Clifford's version is in today's English, including some of today's jokes that Tirso de Molina would not have known about.

Reduced to its elements, the story is this: Paulo and his wife Sancho Panza figure Pedro (Paddy Fletcher and Clive Kneller) are former soldiers who have spent ten years

living penitently in a mountain shrine. The Devil (Irene Macdougall, a she-devil) tricks Paulo by telling him that he must find a woman called Lidora and follows her wherever she goes. Lidora turns out to be a tremendous criminal, certainly bound for Hell in the long run, and this means that Paulo must follow her there. Paulo, thinking that it was God and not the Devil that had given his orders, believes that God has let him down, curses him (like Sallier) and reverts to his old homicidal ways.

Endless stage violence inevitably puts both Lidora and Paulo into gaol. Paulo is always ready with talk of confession and salvation; but the Devil, in her black gown with its gold collar, lurks in the background to steer her subjects her own way. Their respective ends suggest that Tirso de Molina, who was a friar, would have been a very friendly parish priest. Lidora, sentenced to a horrible execution by garrotting, is given a chance to escape by the Devil, but refuses it at the word of her beloved blind brother, who rises from the dead to save her. She is garrotted; but she goes to heaven.

The production goes on to Salisbury, Fareham, Minehead, Launceston and Shaftesbury this month, and towards the north-east next month. It is worth any kind of effort to see it.

Blomstedt's accompaniment of Isaac Stern in Prokofiev's D major violin concerto was a model of respectful tact — and Stern's own playing was a model of easy lyricism. Stern is not always these days the

San Francisco Symphony/Festival Hall

Dominic Gill

The San Francisco Symphony and the Los Angeles Philharmonic have traditionally vied one with the other to earn the title of California's premier orchestra. At various times each one has seemed to hold the advantage; but in truth they are both fine bands, with long and distinguished histories, worthy to be ranked among the half dozen best in America.

The San Francisco Symphony has recently appointed as its music director, Herbert Blomstedt, who previously held the post of director of the Dresden Staatskapelle — and it was he who conducted the London

programme on Monday of their European tour. Two seasons may not be quite enough for Blomstedt, who have settled thoroughly into his new post, but first impressions were of a capable, cautious musical personality who has yet to persuade the orchestral sound to blossom as de Waaert came to do, and as Ozawa did before him.

Blomstedt's accompaniment of Isaac Stern in Prokofiev's D major violin concerto was a model of respectful tact — and Stern's own playing was a model of easy lyricism. Stern is not always these days the

Danger: Memory!/Lincoln Centre, New York

Frank Lipsius

The title of Arthur Miller's two new one acts at Lincoln Centre, *Danger: Memory!* conveys high expectations of a playwright cognisant of his past strengths and weaknesses. The enduring plays, like *Death of a Salesman*, *All My Sons* and *The Price*, moved the post war generation with their deep secrets and moral reverberations unearched by personal loss. The later plays like *After the Fall* and *The American Clock* betrayed the author with memories less digested than merely disguised, and only slightly disguised at that.

The title seems such a knowing reference to both the successes and failures that it gives the hope that the old Arthur Miller is back. But the persuasiveness is gone, replaced by hesitant, faltering gestures.

The curtain opener, "I Can't Remember Anything," is little more than the work of a writer lost in rumination. The two elderly characters sitting around a Connecticut farmhouse kitchen know each other too well to be anything but repetitive and annoying. "Another

one of those conversations," the old man Leo says early on to Leonora, the wife of his lifelong best friend. And so it is, an uncharacteristically rambling and pointless exercise in silence-life banality.

With his gravelly voice and boyish amiability, Mason Adams skims through the part of Leo, mostly sitting at the table nursing garbled arithmetic hands. Geraldine Fitzgerald, supposedly 20 years older than Leo, adds life to the depressing party by darting about, looking in the cupboard and pouring herself stiff whiskies.

The second play, "Clara," is the real shock. An attempt to capture the spark of classic Miller, it takes the obvious setting of a murder mystery to explore a father's guilt for his daughter's death. Unlike *All My Sons*, where the father actually manufactured defective planes that killed his son, here the father feels bad for instilling compassion in his daughter. In a moving confessional scene played to the hilt of Irish pathos, Kenneth McMillan as the father admits that he told his daughter how he saved

black soldiers from a lynching. For this reason, he assumes he is to blame for his daughter's violent death because she took his good works so seriously she became a prison worker.

An intense James Tolkan as a police inspector grills the father to get the confession and dredge up from behind the guilt the name of his daughter's boyfriend, a former convict jailed for killing a previous girlfriend. The old Miller might have been satisfied with such a contrived plot, but at least would have used it to show how wrong the cop and the father's assumptions are. Here, the play ends as the cop goes off to arrest the former convict, convinced that his own narrow-minded prejudices had fingered another criminal.

Gregory Mosher, in his second season as director of the Lincoln Centre Theatre company, uses the plays to show his versatility in making a laconic first act in contrast to the tension of the second. A bare thrust stage with unimpressive sticks of furniture completes the dismal picture of a playwright in sad decline.

Rembrandt's Engravings/Paris

Magda Hamsher

The Bibliothèque Nationale can be justifiably proud of the exhibition (until May 3) of Rembrandt's engravings. The exhibits, ranging from the first dated engraving—a portrait of his mother—to the *Woman with an Arrow*, the last dated one, offer a complete panorama of his work as an engraver. All but nine of his engravings are shown.

The interest and pleasure in the exhibition are heightened by the unusual number of proofs showing the evolution of his work. Hanging side by side, they allow the public to follow the different stages of Rembrandt's creative process.

The lay-out combines scientific rigour with both originality and a sense of poetry. The organisers have deliberately avoided the risk of shuffling lines of viewers bent over a monotonous alignment of glass cases.

Here you enter the exhibition through a timely film of the sound-effects of birds singing, water splashing and wind swishing, with three wells projecting reproductions of Rembrandt's oils. And—most

surprising of all—after feasting your eyes on the painter's colours you come to his engravings and realise that, with shadow and light, he draws and sculpts a universe in black and white which is as rich as his paintings—but totally autonomous.

A light, airy line expresses the peacefulness of a countryside in which he hides playfully, minute figures. A quick, sharp drawing catches the immediacy of his observation of beggars and of village life. His northern earthiness comes out in a couple making love in a *Lit à la française* and in a *Woman Urinating*, while the *Adoration of the Shepherds* is a classically beautiful nude. The psychological depth of portraits explains Rembrandt's great popularity as a portraitist.

In the magnificent Mazarin Gallery the sequence of biblical themes graduates in a dramatic crescendo from the *Adoration of the Shepherds* to the *Three Crosses* and *Descent from the Cross*. There the blackness, which was velvety in portraits, becomes all-embracing.

Arts Guide

Music/Monday, Opera and Ballet/Tuesday, Theatre/Wednesday, Exhibitions/Thursday, A selective guide to all the Arts appears each Friday.

Theatre

SPAIN
Madrid, Where Is The Party by Dutch group Pigeon Drop. A series of sketches and gags by three actors and three musicians. A sort of pantomime, musical, cabaret show. Teatro Martin, Santa Brígida 3 (222 93 52), until end of March.

NEW YORK
Cats (Winter Garden): Still a sell-out. Trevor Nunn's production of T.S. Eliot's children's poetry set to trendy music is visually startling and choreographically felicitous, but classic only in the sense of a rather staid and overblown idea of theatricality. (239 8282).

42nd Street (Majestic): An inimitable celebration of the heyday of Broadway in the '30s incorporates songs from the original film like *Shuffle Off To Buffalo* with the appropriately brash and leggy hoofing by a large chorus line. (977 9020).

A Chorus Line (Shubert): The longest-running musical ever in America has not only supported Joseph Papp's Public Theater for eight years but also updated the musical genre with its backstage story in which the songs are used as motivations rather than emotions. (239 6260).

La Cage aux Folles (Palace): With some tinsel Jerry Herman songs, Harvey Fierstein's adaptation of the French film manages, barely, to capture the feel of the sweet and hilarious original between high-kicking and gaudy chorus numbers. (757 2625).

Fu Not Rappaport (Booth): The Tony's best play of 1986 won on the

strength of its word-of-mouth popularity for the two oldsters on Central Park benches who bicker uproariously about life past, present and future, with a funny plot to match. (239 6200).

Big River (O'Neill): Roger Miller's music rescues this sedate version of Rudie Fink's adventures down the Mississippi, which walked off with many 1965 Tony awards almost by default. (246 0220).

The Mystery of Edwin Drood (Imperial): Rupert Holmes's Tony-winning resurrection of the unfinished Dickens classic is an ingenious musical with music-hall tunes where the audience picks an ending. (239 6200).

LONDON
Les Liaisons Dangereuses (Ambassadors): Christopher Hampton's masterly version of Laclos' epistolary novel is sexy, witty and wise, like a collaboration between Marivaux and de Sade. Howard Davies's sell-out pre-Revolutionary production for the RSC has moved from the Pit with Alan Rickman and Lindsay Duncan still battling and bickering over lovers and other riffs. (936 8111, CC 836 1171).

Misalliance (Barbican): Rarely seen Shaw, and a much underrated play, given the full RSC works by John Caird, a Polish new woman crashing into the surrey conservatory in her zomophone. Jane Lapotnik sparkles alongside Brian Cox, Elizabeth Spriggs and newcomer Richard McCabe (928 6765, CC 836 0881).

The Phantom of the Opera (Her Majesty's): Spectacular but emotionally nutritional new musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber emphasizing the romance in Leroux's 1911 novel. Rap-



Glenda Jackson, who plays at The Globe, London, this week

pens in a wonderful Paris Opera ambience designed by Maria Bjornson. Hal Prince's alert, affectionate production contains a superb central performance by Michael Crawford. A new, meticulous and palpable hit. (939 2244, CC 370 8131/240 7200).

Woman to Mind (Vaudeville): Alan Ayckbourn's new comedy has a brilliant performance by Julia McKenzie as a disgruntled housewife visited on her own garden lawn by an imaginary ideal family. Bleak but funny, hailed in some quarters as a vintage feminist drama; he not put off by that. (936 9867/5645).

Starlight Express (Apollo Victoria): Andrew Lloyd Webber's rollercoasteringly folio has 10 minutes of Spielberg movie magic, an exciting first half and a dwindling reliance on indiscriminate rushing around. Disneyland, Star Wars and Cats are all

influences. Pastiche score nods towards rock, country and hot gospel. No hint is known to have asked for his money back. (934 8184).

The House of Bernarda Alba (Globe): Lorca's last tragedy in a successful production transferred to the West End from HammerSmith. Nuria Espert, veteran actress-director, has drilled a high-calibre cast led by Glenda Jackson and Joan Plowright into a near-authentic portrayal of seamy frustration in an all-female household oppressed by both traditional catholicism and the peasant class system. Ultimately it's all a bit British, but the company proves a roll-call of some of the best actresses around — all equipped by the ineffably touching Julie Legrand. (437 1522).

CHICAGO

Pump Boys and Dinettes (Apollo Center): Facetious look at country music and down-home country life with a good beat and some memorable songs, especially one played on kitchen utensils has proved to be a durable Chicago hit. (936 8100).

My Werewolf (Goodman Studio): Theatre X production written by John Schneider tells the werewolf legend as a 1940s horror movie, with all the exaggerations of romance, terror and eerie music, for the stage. Ends Feb 22. (443 3800).

WASHINGTON

Gleamery Glen Boss (Arena): David Mamet's outburst re-estate salesman show off one aspect of the soft underbelly of American capitalism in its bastion of political support. Ends March 8. (488 3300).

Saleroom/Antony Thorncroft

A £10,000 sixpence

One of the earliest coins struck by British colonists in the Americas sold for £10,450 at Christie's yesterday, around twice its estimate. It was bought by the London dealer Spink.

The coin was issued around 1616 for circulation in the Somers Islands, now Bermuda. It was a sixpence and is known as "Hogge Money": the coin carries a hog on the reverse, in recognition of the profusion of wild hogs found on the island by the first settlers. The auction of coins totalled £153,076 with just 3 per cent unsold.

Two other early American coins were nearer to their estimate. A sixpence struck in England for use in Maryland in the late 1650s went for £1,980, and a shilling, depicting an oak tree, which circulated in Massachusetts in the 1660s was bought by Spink for £1,570. Both coins had been in the same family since 1685.

A rare late Henry VII gold sovereign did well at £9,680 and an Elizabeth I oval silver plaque by Simon de Passe, produced in 1615, not long after her death, was bought by the dealer C. Humphries for £8,800, as against a £2,400 top estimate.

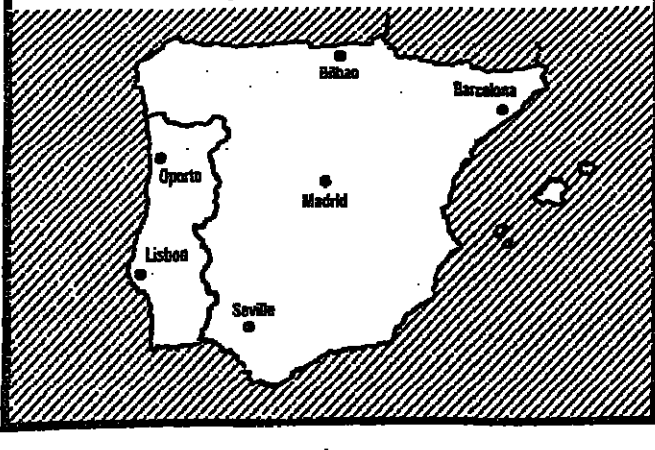
Humphries paid £4,620 for a portrait medal of Henry, Duke of Gloucester, the brother of Charles II, by Peter van Abeele. It is the only type depicting the Duke known, and was almost

certainly made to commemorate the Restoration in 1660. The price was four times the estimate. Two rare plaques of King Henry IV of France and Marie de Medici, also by Simon de Passe, doubled their top estimate at £4,400.

Bonhams did well on Monday by holding a series of sales devoted to dogs—both paintings and doggy artifacts—linked to the end of Crufts. All told £348,000 was brought in, a considerable sum for this auction house.

The top price was the £10,600 paid for "The Dogs bag" by James Hardy Jr, which depicts two proud retrievers guarding a basket stuffed with game birds. "Fox-hounds in a kennelyard" by Thomas Henry Wood went at the top of its estimate for £8,380, and a pair of portraits of mongrels from an unknown 19th century English primitive painter made £7,200.

The big success of Phillips routine sale of Old Master paintings and drawings was the £13,200 paid by Colnaghi for a red chalk drawing of the Madonna and Child which had been catalogued "attributed to Polidoro da Caravaggio," and estimated at £500-£800. Obviously the dealer has a better attribution. The drawing had once belonged to Sir Joshua Reynolds.



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Wednesday February 18 1987

A budget for incentives

THE NEWS yesterday that public sector borrowing in the first 10 months of the current financial year has totalled only £2,400m means it is certain that total borrowing this year will be far below the Chancellor's target of £7bn. It is still too early to estimate the sum, and still more hazardous to project the trend into 1987/88. The news, which has contributed perhaps half of the total, may well not be fully sustainable, since consumer appetite for debt is not inexhaustible, as recent US experience has shown.

On the other hand revenue from corporation tax should be increasingly buoyant, since the effect of rapidly rising profits is compounded with the exhaustion of past tax allowances. This strongly confirms what analysts have foreseen: that the Chancellor will have abundant cash in hand within his stated borrowing targets. The recent Cabinet decision to stick to a "prudent" policy suggests that some of this will be used to reduce borrowing. This would still leave scope for substantial tax cuts.

Minimum risk

Every political instinct, and the economic case for sharper incentives at every level, will argue for cuts. It is certain that prudent might well point the other way. The rapid rise in earnings and in consumer spending, the deterioration of the current account, and the rapid inflation in property values in the more prosperous parts of the country all suggest the last thing the economy needs is any further stimulus.

That is why the Tory Reform Group, supported by the moderate opposition and partly by the CBI, has targeted the money should be targeted on the unemployed and the regions of high unemployment. These regions are in no danger at all of overheating. Some measures of this kind—especially, perhaps, a targeted cut in national insurance contributions—would certainly be welcome; but it is highly unlikely that the Chancellor will draw the line here. The real challenge is to devise cuts which give the most real help to incentives at the minimum economic risk.

This economic background immediately suggests one test. Since the buoyancy of revenue is partly the result of very high personal borrowing, any cuts should be designed in part to encourage saving rather than

further borrowing. The pattern of income growth suggests another test: while there is a case for cutting the higher marginal rates of tax, in an effort to follow the US example of tax reform, there is no case at all for redistributing post-tax income. The higher paid have already enjoyed above-average increases for several years. Concessions to the rich should be at the expense of their fiscal privileges.

Radical package

At the moment the steepest disincentives apply at low rather than high income, where the combined effect of tax, national insurance contributions, and loss of benefits adds up to an effective "tax" rates of over 90 per cent in some ranges. Selective welfare support increases means a steep cut-off, but this seems excessive. At the least the Chancellor should press on with the reform of national insurance he began in 1985, which eliminate the drawback which results in actual loss of income when pay increases through certain narrow ranges. A reduction in standard rate would, of course, also help here.

At the top end of the scale, the obvious effect for any reduction in the higher rates is to restrict mortgage tax relief to the standard rate, which is now virtually a consensus proposal. A further increase in the tax on perquisites would be in line with existing Conservative policy; and the present ceiling on personal contributions to national insurance creates an illogical kink in the effective income tax schedule. Finally, the US example argues that there is no case for taxing realised capital gains at a lower rate than income. These elements could make a balanced incentive package for the rich. It would be easy (and enjoyable) to propose a much more radical package, which would move towards an expenditure tax on personal incomes. The Chancellor might also take advantage of the proposed abolition of local rates to bring in a national property tax, which would raise revenue progressively without disincentive effects; but the ground is not prepared, politically or administratively, for such measures. Mr Lawson could, however, combine political attack with fiscal prudence by combining a relatively cautious programme of immediate cuts with a Green glimpse of a more logical system for the future.

Ring fence around the banks

ARE banks so special, so vital to the national interest, as to warrant some form of special protection from takeover by foreigners? This has emerged as one of the main questions in the Banking Bill which reaches the report stage in the House of Commons tomorrow. Although the measures proposed by the Thatcher Government yesterday will make it harder for certain foreigners to buy stakes in UK banks, it seems likely that a coalition of right and left wing forces in the House will table a much stronger amendment to give the Government the right to veto bank acquisitions in the national interest. They will have the support of many members of the UK banking establishment.

This is not an issue which can be decided on the basis of pure principle, be it either that commercial markets should be free or that the UK as a nation should retain the right of control over its business institutions. Banks are special. There is little doubt about that. The aim of the legislation must be to establish the minimum amount of protection necessary to ensure their special character is not jeopardised.

Domestic interests

That special character has partly to do with their role as intermediaries between lenders and borrowers. Some concern has been expressed about the possible threats to both depositors and to the supply of credit to the country should a major bank fail to foreign hands. But fears on this score do not seem realistic in an age when banks are increasingly being supervised according to internationally accepted standards and where supplies of credit are proliferating. Besides, any foreign-owned bank which did not inspire confidence in the UK market would very quickly pay the price through loss of business.

A more deep-rooted concern centres on the banks' key position in the payments system, one of the economy's vital organs. There is certainly a case for arguing that access to the system should be limited to banks which satisfy all the criteria of soundness and political

acceptability. In the case of foreign banks this would include ensuring that their protection from takeover by foreigners is not abused to prevent them co-operating in the implementation of UK monetary policy. But again, it is important to be clear about precisely what threats might be involved. Any major foreign-owned bank which seriously damaged the UK financial system would probably destroy much of its international business as well. So the chances of this happening seem remote, and may be prevented altogether by subjecting foreign bank purchasers to the Bank of England's "fit and proper" test as already provided for in the Bill.

Unwritten prohibitions

None of these concerns, however, support the case for a full veto on foreign ownership of banks, particularly smaller non-clearing banks which have no claim to special treatment. This is not merely because banks need to be exposed to the same pressures of competition as other commercial concerns. The UK has a reputation for the openness of its financial markets which has been enormously productive in bringing new business to the country, and it should maintain its leading position in this respect. It is true that many countries have what amount to unwritten prohibitions on acquisition of their banks by foreigners, and in no leading western country other than the US has a major domestic bank been acquired by foreign interests. But that is no reason why the UK should encourage a shift in a more restrictive, nationalistic direction.

The strongest argument for legislating powers to restrict access to the UK financial market by foreign institutions is that they can be used to force other countries to liberalise their practices. This is why the reciprocity amendment proposed by the Government yesterday is appropriate to a time of rapid internationalisation of banking and finance. The real issue is not how to keep the foreigners out, but how to get them to open up their own markets.

As SK ALMOST any European trade official how the wind is blowing from Washington these days and he is likely to offer a blunt one-word reply: cold.

Faced with a trade deficit that totalled nearly \$170bn (£112bn) last year, the US is wrestling with its conscience over free trade. As pressure mounts for protectionist legislation, the Reagan Administration has turned on its major trading partners in a series of bitter confrontations designed to force them to open their markets to US goods.

Just how cold the trade winds are blowing will become easier to gauge as the debate on trade legislation gets under way. At stake is not only the question of how far the US will swing towards protectionism in response to its record trade deficit, but also the question of the degree to which the President should have free rein in the management of trade policy—traditionally a jealously-guarded preserve of Congress.

Weakened by Iranate, President Reagan's Republican Administration is pitted against a Democrat-controlled Congress, facing its most serious test of the 1983 presidential elections.

As its first shot, the Administration will shortly launch a major competitiveness initiative, containing its trade proposals. Separately, the House of Representatives is expected to legislate by late April and a trade bill has been unveiled in the Senate by Senator Lloyd Bentsen, the influential Democrat who heads the finance committee, and Republican Senator John Danforth, of Missouri.

Prospects for enactment of these measures changed late last year when Mr James Baker, President Reagan's shrewd Treasury Secretary who is generally regarded as the architect of US trade policy, announced that the Administration wanted to start working on trade legislation with Congress. Previously, the White House, which—on paper at least—staunchly in favour of free trade, had refused to work with Congress in this way.

Washington trade experts reckon that the change of heart reflected, in part, the realisation that Congress would pass a bill anyway. On a practical level, the Administration also needs legislation that will provide the necessary negotiating authority for the new round of multilateral trade negotiations, now under way at the Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva.

According to Mr Clayton Yeutter, US Trade Representative, the President's imminent competitiveness initiative will run to more than 1,500 pages. As well as covering issues related to foreign trade, it will bring in education, training and research. Rather than endorsing protectionism, the initiative will seek to reduce legal impediments facing exporters. Changes will be sought to anti-trust laws to encourage the formation of consortia to bid for foreign contracts. Also slated for revision is the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, passed by the Carter Administration, seen as a deterrent to exporters because of its strict line on incentives paid to foreign customers.

This positive approach has been described by an aide to Mr Baker as "politically by far

US trade policy

A cold wind but not a freeze-up

By Peter Montagnon

the most promising" for the battle against protectionism. The Administration is planning its hopes on a belief that the 100th Congress, which convened for the first time last month, will turn out to be much less protectionist than at first expected. It is pitching the competitiveness initiative as a rallying call to the moderates.

Politically, there are grounds for thinking that the Administration may have got the mood of Congress right. The Democratic Party is acutely aware of the risk that full-blown protectionism could backfire with US voters, who instinctively prefer laissez-faire. The humiliating defeat suffered by former Vice President Walter Mondale in the last presidential election is attributed at least in part to his espousal of protectionism.

Moreover, memories in Washington reach back more than half a century to the

Mr Yeutter fears, the Republicans would be blamed for failing to deal with trade this year.

Though there seems to be little public support in the US for generalised protectionism, calls for relief from what are seen as predatory foreign trade practices are becoming ever more "strong and shrill" from specific industrial sectors and regions, according to Mr John Bohn, president of the US Eximbank, Mr Carlos Moore, vice-president of the American Textile Manufacturers Institute, adds that the US is "giving away its manufacturing base to imports."

There is little in the competitiveness initiative which is likely to placate such strong critics.

Another group calling loudly for protectionist legislation is organised labour. Last month Mr Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO trade union federation, warned in congressional testimony that "scores of domestic industries and millions of Americans have been left defenceless against an onslaught of imports."

As the shape of the President's initiative becomes clearer, Mr Mark Anderson, an AFL-CIO economist, says it will contain nothing of substance. "It will not go far enough at all to address the kind of problems we're facing."

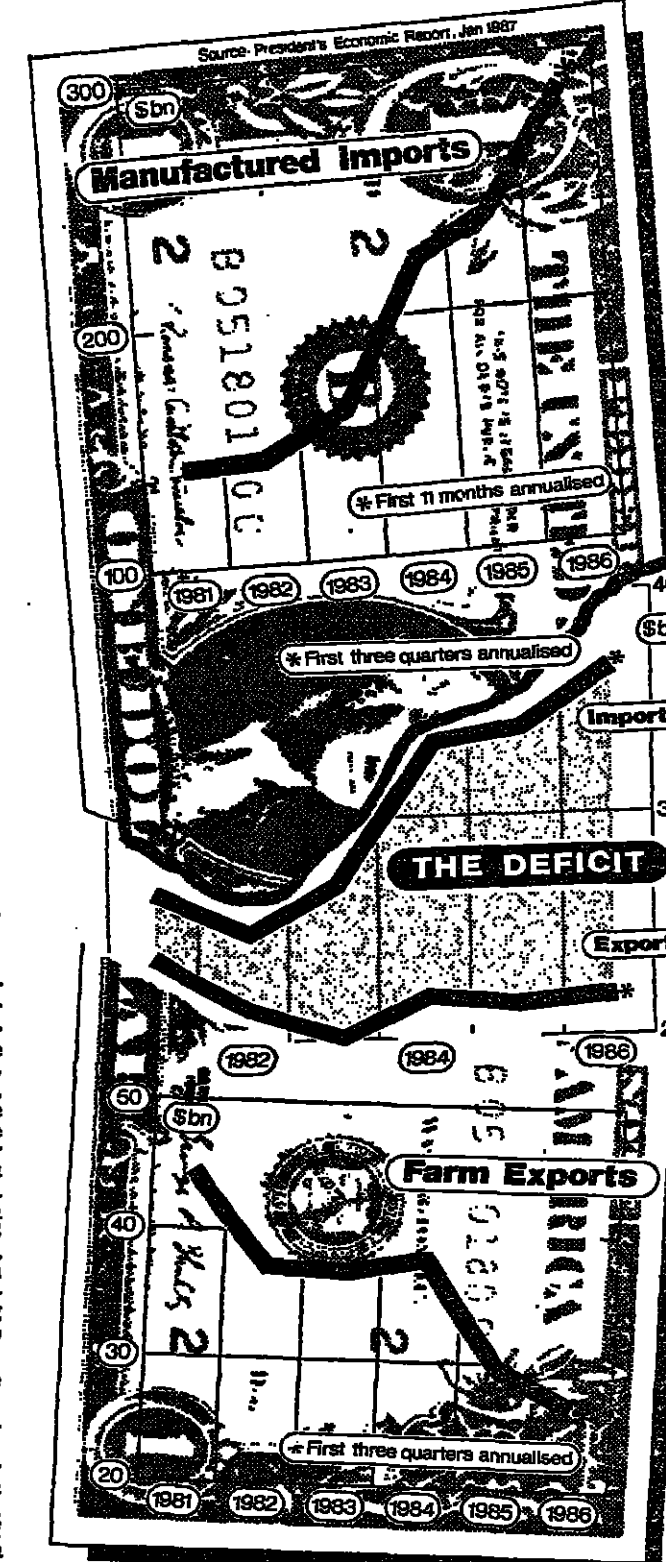
Congressmen like Senator Benton and his counterpart in the House of Representatives, Mr Dan Rostenkowski who chairs the ways and means committee, are described by aides as pragmatic free-traders. For them the art will be to overcome the more extreme pressures for protectionism, while going just far enough down that road to ensure that there is strong bipartisan support for moderate legislation. The aim is to help preserve the open international trading system, not to cause further friction between the US and its main trading partners.

Such an objective is, however, easier to define than to achieve.

The small print will be designed to harass anyone who is not American

notoriously protectionist Senator Hawley legislation, now regarded as a key contributor to the 1980s world recession. With their eyes firmly fixed on the White House next year, the last thing the Democrats want to be accused of is irresponsibility over trade.

Yet the Reagan Administration faces a struggle with Congress. Mr Yeutter says he is worried about the speed with which Mr Jim Wright, Speaker of the House of Representatives, aims to move on trade. A bill to be passed by Easter could incorporate harsh protectionist legislation, which the President would veto. Then,



At the moment no one in Washington knows with certainty what sort of law will be passed. Mr Harold Mahgren, a trade consultant and former US Trade Representative, says the legislative process is "unpredictable." Mr Bohn says it will be "muddy." But a tentative consensus is forming among trade experts in Washington that the final outcome will contain relatively little in the form of overt protectionism.

Instead, the expectation is that the bill will contain a lot of what Mr Mahgren calls "technical protection" in its small print, "all of which will be designed to harass anybody who is not American."

A possible example, he says, would be a change in patent regulations. At present a US company seeking protection against patent infringement by a foreign competitor has to prove that its business has suffered. Under suggested rules, which command widespread support in Washington, it would have to prove only that the

patent had been infringed. That could hurt exporters to the US, particularly in the electronics and high-tech area where many patents are in world-wide contention. During the time taken for appeal a foreign company could lose its potential market share in the US.

For its part, the Administration has made plain its dislike of some of the proposals during the rounds in Congress. In Capitol Hill testimony last week, Mr Baker singled out several, including a general import surcharge which, he said, could spur inflation, prompt retaliation from other countries and hurt US industries relying on imported inputs.

For much the same reasons, Mr Baker also came out strongly against granting protection to specific industrial sectors. The Senate bill carefully avoids proposals to aid these, but separately legislation is in preparation to introduce quotas on textile imports. Pressure for specific legislation is also being exerted by areas

like telecommunications and natural resources.

In response, the Administration is likely to step up action under existing rules against its trading partners in any sector for which specific legislation is proposed. Yeutter hinted, during an interview last week, that this would be the approach on telecommunications. He said:

"This is a major area of economic activity for the world as a whole and one which is by no means an example of free and open trade world-wide. It is plagued with monopolies in many parts of the world. That's an area that's ripe for improvement."

Mr Yeutter also pointed to the Administration's record for tough action against Japan as a pre-emptive response to legislative proposals within Congress requiring that country to reduce its trade surplus with the US. According to Mr Baker the idea of mandatory retaliation against countries with a large bilateral or global trade surplus is "indefinite and dangerous." A rigid, statutorily mandated approach, that dictates to foreign governments, can make them less likely to agree to reduce barriers and more likely to dig in and fight a bill, even though that would mean the risk of forgoing the GATT negotiating authority.

On the Japanese issue, they say the Administration is prepared to see reciprocal access to foreign markets introduced as a general factor, which it may consider when dealing with specific trade disputes. But like many of its proposals on trade—which would also set a deadline of two years on the settlement of trade disputes under the GATT and provide speedier import relief for producers of perishable products—its stance is rather weak when set against congressional demands.

In some sectors of US industry there is rising frustration over what is perceived as the slowness of government response to trade problems. Mr James Gray, president of the National Machine Tool Builders Association, says it took ten years to win import relief for his sector. Mr Moore, of the textile institute, says his industry has filed more than 20 requests for import relief over the past five years "and we've been frustrated."

Though this is denied by the State Department, he says trade policy has been subjugated to foreign policy considerations. For example, action against Turkish textile exports to the US was refused because of the need to maintain NATO bases in that country.

As a result, limiting presidential discretion in trade matters has become one of the most pervasive themes of the debate. Whatever shape the legislation finally takes, it is likely to make aggressive action on trade issues more automatic and also more frequent as the Administration loses power to negotiate with other countries.

This is a price that the Administration—and the US's trading partners—may have to pay if more overt forms of protectionism are to be avoided.

Eye to eye with Kalms

Gerald Corbett, pukka corporate finance chief at Dixons, is coy about the fine detail of the package offered to Barry Feinberg, head of the Silo electrical retailing business in the US which seems set to join Stanley Kalms's portfolio.

He much prefers to concentrate on the fact that Feinberg will be staying in day-to-day control of the company, and that he gets on well with Kalms. Dixons has something of a red-blooded reputation for roughing up the management of companies coming under its control.

Feinberg, 42, and Kalms, 55, hit it off from the outset. Corbett says with some satisfaction and barely concealed relief, "They both go a lot to help Jewish charities."

For Kalms the deal offers a way into the rich US market and some compensation for failing to gain control of Woolworth last year.

Feinberg will get a chance to run a pure retailing busi-

Men and Matters

ness, unencumbered by the constraints of its steelmaking parent, Cyclops Corp.

According to Corbett, there will be little interference from London. "He is a good man with a good team. It would be a disaster to export top people and start running it like Dixons."

Kalms, master of the hands-on management style, is apparently prepared to be patient, even though, Corbett says, his "fingers started twitching" at the sight of some of Silo's merchandising efforts.

Turner's news

Ted Turner, the flamboyant Atlanta cable and satellite television entrepreneur, seems to have a natural talent for relationships with Communist countries. He organised the Goodwill Games in Moscow. Now he has reached a deal with the Chinese to supply his 24-hour-a-day satellite news service Cable News Network to the Chinese.

Chinese television (CCTV) is going to take a minimum of half an hour a day from CNN giving access to a Western view of the world to more than 300m people. In return, Turner will have the right to sell some advertising slots in what is a barter deal.

Despite his recent debt repayment pressures, Turner's news channel is spreading out around the globe and is available in some form in more than 50 countries. The Japanese public broadcasting organisation is taking four hours a day of headline news for its DBS service, and CNN is available in 36,000 hotel rooms in Japan.

Now that Turner Broadcast- ing has cracked the Chinese

market, renewed efforts will be made on a much tougher nut—the British cable television network.

Young fogey

Retirement at the age of 37 sounds like the final gesture in a meteoric but brief career. However, in the case of Michel Marks, who is retiring from the chairmanship of the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), it has been achieved after long years of service.

In spite of his tender years he has been a member of NYMEX—the world's biggest oil futures exchange—for 13 years, and has been chairman since 1978.

The exchange does not wish to lose him and has appointed him its permanent chairman emeritus. He must be one of the youngest holders of an emeritus office on record.

Marks is a trader to his fingertips. But, during a visit to the London markets yesterday, he explained to me that he is going to gear his future to the long haul rather than the quick buck.

As well as chairing a committee to manage long-range planning for the 115-year-old NYMEX, he is forming his own private company to provide a worldwide information service on financial and energy affairs. He thought of calling it Sylabus. But in recognition of New York suspicions about fancy names he has crunched that down into Silibus Corporation.

Marks, who has always been highly regarded on the New York exchanges for his ability to bring a long-term perspective to an industry focused upon the

moment's trading, sees commercial information as the growth business of the future.

Class of '59

A delightful political confrontation will take place this evening. Sir Peter Emery, Tory MP for Hoxton, has organised a dinner for the Conservatives' 1959 intake to the Commons. This included not only a certain Margaret Thatcher, from Finchley, but also Julian Critchley, then the member for Rochester and Chatham, and now MP for Aldershot.

Critchley has become known not only as a ubiquitous columnist (soon to be seen in the new London Daily News) but also as a waspish critic of the Thatcher regime—noting that his leader cannot see an institution without hitting it with her handbag.

Emery has asked Critchley to propose the toast tonight, and Mrs Thatcher to reply. But I am assured, both the rasper and the handbag will be put aside. It will be roses, roses, all the way.

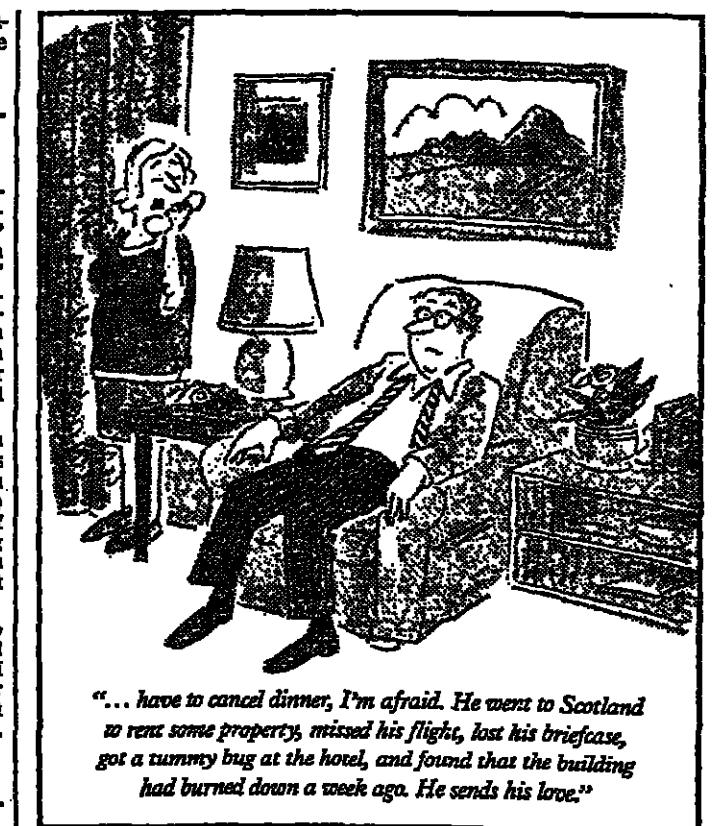
Noises off

After every rowdy scene at Prime Minister's question time in the Commons, the Speaker, Bernard Weatherill, receives several complaints about the din. Now, thanks to Peter Bottomley, junior transport minister, we know how deafening the noise really is.

Bottomley had admitted that he once sneaked a noise meter into the Commons Chamber, and during the PM's questions the reading was 95 decibels. Such a noise level, he says, would be banned in most factories as a health hazard.

The snag, of course, is that while often described as a legislative factory, the Commons is part of the Royal Palace of Westminster and is exempt from such enlightened legislation.

Observer



"... have to cancel dinner, I'm afraid. He went to Scotland to rent some property, missed his flight, lost his briefcase, got a tummy bug at the hotel, and found that the building had burned down a week ago. He sends his love."

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THE Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, the Arts Council and the Government—in the skeletal form of the Office of Arts and Libraries—are involved in a leisurely game of pass the parcel. If the parcel does not contain a sizeable sum of money when it is opened, probably next month, then the future of Covent Garden as an international opera house looks bleak indeed.

When the Arts Council announced its grants for the major UK arts companies in December, Covent Garden was pointedly omitted from the list. It had been unable to produce a balanced budget for 1987-88, a grave misdemeanour in the council's eyes. Even more to the point, there are influential figures on the Arts Council who think that Covent Garden, which with its grant for the current year of £1.5m is the biggest recipient of arts subsidy, is over-generously funded. If its grant were re-distributed, they argue, the arts in the region could flourish.

In the event, Covent Garden was sent away to produce a balanced budget, with the task impossible: with the forward commitments inevitable in running an opera house—booking of major singers, conductors and directors—it envisages a deficit of nearly £2m in 1987-88. The Opera House is now devising its first three-year plan, which may cut back the short fall in year one by £500,000. But there is no way to balance the books without a substantial increase in subsidy.

The Arts Council cannot produce the extra cash. Many of its clients are in a similar plight—the RSC anticipates a loss on the year of £1m—and the Council is alive to the outcry it could expect if it gave more than the present £132m to its biggest supplicant. Its first inclination was to offer Covent Garden a standstill grant; now it may find a small increase. But the best it can do is to pass the problem on to the Government.

Covent Garden, for its part, has set out to charm the opposition; hence the invitation to the Prime Minister to attend a performance of *Ottello* with Plácido Domingo, and the close attention that was paid to her approving remarks. Having seen the product, she must decide if it should continue.

Covent Garden holds the Government directly responsible for its current plight. In 1983, perhaps persuaded that the Opera House was wasteful and badly managed, the Minister for the Arts asked an influential Treasury consultant, Sir Charles Priestley, to examine its activities. He came out with the nearest thing to a financial whitewash. The Opera House could save around £800,000 by changing some back stage practices but, in return, it deserved much more cash, over a number

The Royal Opera House



Margaret Price in a scene from Covent Garden's new £200,000 production of *Norma* which opened last week. Now playing to capacity houses, *Norma* will only be staged six times before disappearing from the repertoire

A last chance at the Garden

By Antony Thorncroft

of years. Covent Garden has achieved £300,000 of the savings but only got more money for one year.

If the Priestley recommendation had been acted upon, the Opera House would still face a financial squeeze, but one that could be tackled with optimism. Without Priestley, it has suffered the fate of all arts organisations—a subsidy which rises in line with the lowest increase in the Retail Price Index while costs (salaries make up around 75 per cent of expenditure) keep pace with the higher Average Earnings Index. At the Natural History Museum the same problem has been met by the introduction of admission charges; at the RSC it has meant fewer new productions next season. For Covent Garden there is no easy solution.

Staff are on contracts, therefore closing down for six weeks

in the summer offers no quick solution, and eliminates income. Cutting the size of the chorus or orchestra would soon dislodge top conductors, directors and singers from accepting bookings at the Garden, marginalising its position in the opera world. Putting on a repertoire of safe and popular operas would produce a disastrous press. To remain an important world centre, the Garden must mount new and experimental productions.

At the moment Sir John Tooley, general director of the Opera House, refuses, on the surface, to contemplate what will happen if the Government does not come up with more cash. He is concentrating on the budget. Covent Garden hopes to boost its revenue in 1987-88 in the time honoured way—improving marketing, raising seat prices, and attracting more sponsorship. At

the same time, costs will be cut further.

Seat prices offer the biggest challenge. Their contribution to revenues has declined since Covent Garden adopted a fixed price policy. Currently the top seat price is fixed at £40, no matter how popular the performance. But this is expected to change: "gala" evenings may be introduced to exploit the premium seat prices which the more glamorous productions command. Sponsorship is another problem. Taking account of the seats sold to companies at a premium, Covent Garden makes £3m a year from sponsorship, out of total revenue of £28m; it does not think it can push it much higher. A more obvious way of shrinking the 1987-88 deficit would be to run more popular operas. Lucia di Lammermoor has just completed 10 performances in rapid succession—and

more ballet, which is cheaper to mount. But even if these strategies are adopted, there will still be a deficit.

For the future, the possibility of three-year funding gives some cause for hope. This would make planning easier, and potential savings could be targeted over a longer time span. The Prime Minister has expressed sympathy with rolling subsidies, but it is anathema to the Treasury. No agreement is likely in time to head off the immediate crisis.

Nonetheless, the Opera House still has a few cards up its sleeve. By chance its chairman, Sir Claus Moser, retires this summer. His successor is believed to be Sir John Sainsbury—but Sir John will be understandably unwilling to take over a bankrupt institution.

The most likely outcome is that the Arts Council will offer just enough for the Garden to enter the new financial year without disrupting its programme—and a commitment on all sides that a longer-term solution will be worked out in the next few months. A pre-election announcement of £10m extra for the arts, perhaps included in the Budget, is not impossible.

However, if the government's purse strings cannot be loosened, Covent Garden is prepared to make a dramatic gesture, like cancelling productions, or even closing temporarily.

Something must happen soon, before the financial crisis gets caught up in the long-term redevelopment plans of the Opera House. Last week Westminster City Council rejected proposals for a £56m redevelopment scheme, which would eliminate Covent Garden's horrendous back stage workings and modernise its antiquated stage. The plan—which has been criticised by architectural commentators—will be re-submitted in June, but with only minor changes.

Covent Garden can hardly push ahead with confidence on such an ambitious project if it is officially bankrupt.

To a great extent, Covent Garden's difficulties come down to a matter of image. It actually offers the cheapest theatre seats in London—£2, with excellent acoustics and dreadful vision. And its average attendance of just under 90 per cent would make commercial West End management ecstatic. Finally, the Opera House's revenue is under 50 per cent of its revenue—than rival houses in Paris and Milan.

Steps are now being taken to streamline the Garden's organisational structure: it is up to the Government to decide whether it wants the new management team to be given one more chance.

National pay bargaining

A hospital pass from Lawson to Clarke

By John Edmonds

PERHAPS WHEN Mr Nigel Lawson was a lad he played rugby. In that game, if you have the ball and the opposing scrum is about to tear you to pieces, it is tempting to pass the ball and let a colleague take the punishment. The strategy is known as the hospital pass.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Britain's Employment Minister and Paymaster General, must feel very much victim of such tactics at the hands of the Chancellor. His resignation last week of the Government's case against national pay bargaining has brought a torrent of criticism on his head.

The Government's case is based on four key arguments, first put by Mr Lawson to the National Economic Development Council (NEDC) last year.

According to Mr Lawson: "A bricklayer or a bank clerk or a bureaucrat must be paid the same on Merseyside as in Maidenhead. The trouble is that we have become used to national pay scales resulting from national pay bargaining. And pay rates tend all too often to be set in the light of labour market conditions in London and the south-east, where the demand for labour is much stronger than in the rest of the country. Greater differentiation could help free the labour market and so over time create more jobs."

In these four sentences, there are three inaccurate assumptions leading to an invalid policy conclusion.

In fact, of course, people are not paid the same in "Merseyside or in Maidenhead." Large regional variations exist. The index of hourly earnings excluding overtime (where the national average is 100) ranges from 91 in Tyne and Wear to 126 in Greater London. Moreover, the gap is widening. Whereas earnings in London have risen by an average of 102 per cent since 1979, the corresponding figure for the north is 79 per cent.

The second "fact" is equally wrong. Most national agreements do not set actual pay scales. They set basic minimum rates which form a structure adapted by negotiators to meet local or regional needs.

The extent to which final earnings differ from the national minimum varies enormously

from agreement to agreement. A survey last year of members of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, working in the engineering industry found an average level of basic pay for unskilled workers of £97.79 a week. This was 34 per cent higher than the rate set in November 1985 at national engineering negotiations involving both union officials and employers.

By accident or design the Government has confused two separate methods of national pay bargaining. One is the industry level agreement covering a large number of companies, which sets basic minimum rates for local bargaining to build on. The other is a national agreement covering the countrywide operations of a particular company. Many companies have been determined to maintain systematically placed greater leapfrogging claims by workers in different factories.

Do Mr Lawson and Mr Clarke seriously believe that the hundreds of companies which have systematically placed greater leapfrogging claims by workers in different factories are trying to make life more difficult or expensive for themselves?

The third incorrect "fact" is that national pay rates are set by labour market conditions in the south-east.

The truth is quite the reverse. The floor provided by national agreements is largely determined by constraints on the least profitable employers, often in the most depressed regions.

No pattern of pay determination is sacrosanct but the present patterns have evolved out of the practical efforts of practical people—employers and trade unionists—to create an orderly framework in the face of many conflicting forces within which they can pursue their long-term goals.

For employers the quest is to recruit and maintain an efficient and skilled workforce while operating in increasingly competitive markets. That is why Ford, a major employer and no enemy of this Government, pioneered national company bargaining, and why it wants to stick with it.

For unions the aim is to temper those market forces

with considerations of basic equity without which poverty wages would be even more widespread than they are today. Hence the importance of the basic safety-net rate stemming from the national agreement.

So if the facts are so doubtful why are ministers pushing this line so consistently?

Some commentators have suggested the Government's aim is again to blame someone else for high unemployment, which is once more on the increase. If only employers and unions would see sense and cut pay levels, we would have more jobs.

But even that argument is nonsense. National statistics show that pay is lowest on Tyneside, but jobs have not increased in Newcastle. Since 1979 dole queues have grown as remorselessly in that city as anywhere else in Britain. In fact companies are flooding to south-east England where pay rates are highest.

Other cynics see another purpose. Perhaps the talk about the bricklayers and the bank clerks is all a little smokescreen. Perhaps Mr Lawson and Mr Clarke are simply gunning for the people they label as bureaucrats. The Government hates national bargaining in the public services because it believes that national bargaining makes the public service trade unions strong. If it could break the national pay system, it could pick off the weaker groups one by one.

The NEDC last autumn took the Chancellor at face value and is investigating his assertions and his statistics. I had hoped that the Government would simply abandon this whole silly business.

But Kenneth Clarke has now put back on the political agenda and has given it a dangerous new twist. He has singled out job evaluation in his attack.

It is no coincidence that Mr Clarke's criticism of job evaluation comes at a time when a major exercise is being undertaken for council workers.

Perhaps we will now see a spring offensive against the public service trade unions.

The author is general secretary of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union.

Geographical pay rates

From Mr Iain Maclean

Sir—Your report (February 12) on Employment Minister Kenneth Clarke's remarks about national pay bargaining prompts me to ask: "Has the world gone mad? Is it just government ministers?"

What Mr Clarke is saying, when stripped of its superficial elegance, is that northerners should be paid less than southerners. The justification for this piece of economic grievance is that there is more unemployment up north than in the south.

Mr Clarke says that lower wages in the north will increase employment levels and bring prosperity. On that basis Calcutta should be an economic paradise and West Germany a ramshackle banana republic. The fact that neither is true is easily explained. West Germany has low unemployment, high productivity, high profitability, high wages and low unit costs because of continuous investment in its manufacturing industry. Calcutta is an economic disaster area because there is no economic investment to speak of.

Is it not time that someone in the Employment Department told Mr Clarke that nationally agreed wage rates broadly equate to minimum wage rates? It seems unfair that he should be deprived of this information, especially when it results in his making a public fool of himself.

It might also be an idea to have a word with him about the basic equity of techniques such as job evaluation and concepts like "the rate for the job." For without both, Mr Clarke can be assured of Iain Maclean.

12 Compton Rd, Lindfield, West Sussex

Analysing the analysts

From Greenwell Montagu Securities

Sir—It is a shame that those who analyse the analysts are poor analysts themselves. The Institutional Investor survey (FT February 13) does not differentiate in its award of points between a No 1 analyst and a runner-up. Therefore it is possible that a firm with six No 1 analysts will be rated lower than a firm with six runners-up. This is patently a nonsense.

Greenwell Montagu's place shifted despite the fact that we had more top three analysts in 1987 than we had in 1986. Barclays in No 4 position has 12 analysts who are rated in the top 3 but its 4th place com-

Letters to the Editor

pare with Scrimgeour which has only 9 top three analysts and is rated No 2. The difference is the number of runners-up.

If Institutional Investor adopted a more equitable system of marking, say 3 points to a No 1, 2 points to a No 2 and 1 point to a No 3, then the league table would look a little different:

James Capel 1 1
Scrimgeour Vickers 2 4
Hoare Govett 3 6
Barclays de Zostre 4 2
Wood Mackenzie 4 3
Phillips & Drew 6 4
Country Securities 7 7
Alexanders Laing & Cruickshank 8 9
Smith New Court 8 12
Warburg Securities 8 11
Greenwell Montagu 11 7
Kitch & Aitken 12 9

Keith Brown, Director of Research, Greenwell Montagu, Broad St, EC4

Taking issue with Sirrug

From the chairman, Corporation of London Libraries, Art Galleries and Records Committee

Sir—I am grateful to Sir Roy Strong for conveying in the latter part of his FT article (February 12) something of the fascination of the exhibition Russian Style currently at our Barbican Art Gallery. I must, however, take issue with some of the points in his opening paragraphs.

The gallery was first projected in the late 1960s at a time when there were fewer major exhibition venues in central London than now. That it has by this time defined for itself a very valid role, I think, amply demonstrated by the 600,000 visitors who have passed through its doors since it opened in 1982, and by the consistently high level of critical attention (mostly favourable) that it has received.

Sir Roy refers to the gallery's programme as a ragbag. In so far as this denotes variety within our general policy of providing shows of national and international significance of 19th- and 20th-century materials, I would agree. I nevertheless emphatically deny his claim that the gallery is taking in the shows that no one else wants. A steadily increasing proportion of its exhibi-

tions (seven out of nine in 1985-86 compared with one out of six in 1982-83) are originated in-house. Far from being the recipient of the cast-offs of others, the gallery is creating and showing exhibitions which other venues at home and abroad are delighted to hire at their end of their Barbican run. The Cecil Beaton exhibition, to quote but one example, is currently in Spain, having previously appeared in Italy and will later go on to the US.

Turning to the Russian costumes exhibition, I would be the first to admit that, owing to factors that could neither have been foreseen nor avoided, catalogue preparation and the actual installation took place within far more restricted time-scales than we had either wished or anticipated. I share Sir Roy's sympathy—may I say admiration—for staff who achieved the almost impossible. The sight of a few trailing wires and gaping joints does not seem, however, to have detracted from the great enjoyment of the 11,000 people who visited the exhibition in its first 10 days.

C. D. Woodward, Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, EC2

Not forgetting the teachers

From Mrs Pat Clayton

Sir—I was grateful to Joe Rogaly for his review of current concerns in the education debate and for his comparative view of trends in other countries (February 11, 12). His first article stated that teachers in West Germany are well paid and highly valued and that Japanese society has a total commitment to education. Neither trend is apparent in this country. Small wonder, then, that HMI reports do make "rather depressing reading" (February 12).

Mr Rogaly seems, however, to fall into the trap that has traditionally bedevilled educational change in Britain, in that he makes little mention of children or teachers. They are, after all, the main protagonists in the educational process.

Nothing is written about teachers' long and often stressful working hours, nor the way in which British society under-values them holding teaching in contempt. Little is said about the distressing social conditions in which many school children live, and which inevitably affect

their educational attainment. Nothing is written about their parents, many of whom view school as a child-care facility, because their prime concern is day-to-day survival.

As a teacher-trainer, working in east London, I never cease to be amazed by the commitment and sheer guts of the trainee teachers completing their qualifications there, under the tutelage of serving teachers who display the same qualities. The rewards of the profession lie neither in the pay packet nor in society's approbation, but in their relationship and interaction with children, many of whom are innocent victims of chronic social disadvantage.

Instead of imposing a national curriculum and punitive employment legislation on teachers, the Secretary of State should address himself to these issues: the amelioration of teachers' status and thus education in British society and the ease with which the social disadvantage. Perhaps Joe Rogaly could do so, too.

Pat Clayton, Deputy Director, Urban Studies Centre, 56-58 East India Dock Rd, E14

Corporation tax revenue

From Credit Suisse First Boston
Sir—Mr Brooks (Letters, February 13) notes our estimate of a 40 per cent rise in corporate (CT) revenue this year (1986/87). This rise applies only to non-oil mainstream CT, and with advanced corporation tax (ACT) rising more slowly and oil CT falling the total rise this year will be about £2bn, not the £4bn mentioned by Mr Brooks.

There is now a widespread discussion of whether higher revenue, both from CT and other taxes, should be used to cut borrowing or cut taxes. Our view is that permanent rises in receipts due to sustained increases in productivity should be used to reduce taxes; temporary rises in revenue (whether due to cyclical factors or due to the unexpectedly rapid using-up of past losses) should mainly be used to cut borrowing. Only a small fraction of such revenues, representing the unutilised value of the windfall, can be used for tax cuts.

The current increase in CT is partly due to a temporary factor—the unexpectedly rapid using up of past losses—but also due to a permanent improvement in productivity and hence profits. Thus something like two thirds of the rise can be used for cutting taxes and the rest should be used to lower the public sector borrowing requirement.

Giles Keating, Peter Spencer, 22 Bishopsgate, EC2

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Steven Butler in Singapore reports on a radical shake-up of the Communist Party leadership

Vietnam sweeps away the old guard

VIETNAM yesterday announced the dismissal of 13 ministers in a sweeping cabinet reshuffle that brings a new generation of reform-minded leaders into high positions in the Government.

The 18 new appointments announced at the same time indicate at least partial resolution of a power struggle that gripped the country's leadership in the wake of the congress of the Vietnamese Communist Party in December, when the party's four most senior leaders were swept upstairs to advisory positions.

The changes herald the end of a transition of leadership away from the small band of men who took Vietnam through 30 years of revolution and war, and open the possibility of further changes in Vietnam's domestic and foreign policies.

Mr Pham Hung, the interior minister who lost his job in the reshuffle,

was described by an academic specialist on Vietnam yesterday as the "last vestige of the old guard." Although he retains a post as vice-chairman of the council of ministers and the number two position in the Politburo, control of the powerful internal security apparatus will pass to Mr Mai Chi Tho.

Mr Tho is brother to Mr Le Duc Tho, an old guard leader who was moved out in December, but he is strongly associated with the reformist camp because of his word in Ho Minh City (formerly Saigon), where he was once reprimanded for carrying economic reform measures too far.

Observers were also impressed by the promotion of Vietnam's veteran foreign minister, Mr Nguyen Co Thach, to the rank of vice chairman of the council of ministers. One analyst described Mr Thach as a "closet liberal" and said that he

was expected to encourage an opening of Vietnam to the outside world.

Mr Ven Tien Dung, who was dropped from the Politburo in December, lost his position as defence minister. He was replaced by Mr Le Duc Anh, who has been associated with Vietnam's 1978 invasion of Cambodia. Mr Anh's appointment is thought to be a popular choice among the army.

The major outstanding position expected to be changed is that of prime minister, which is held by the 80-year-old Phan Van Dong. Analysts believe Mr Dong has quietly supported reforms in the Government and may have played a major role in the reshuffle. He is, however, expected to be replaced soon because of old age and ill health.

The changes represent a clear victory for the new party secretary general, Mr Nguyen Van Linh, who

was appointed in December with a brief to promote economic reform in Vietnam. He replaced Mr Truong Chinh.

The Government also announced a reorganisation of ministries, several of which have been merged into a new ministry of agriculture and food industry. A commission for economic relations with foreign countries was established along with a new ministry of information.

The dramatic leadership changes in recent months have come about largely because of Vietnam's disastrous economy. Visitors to Vietnam report that the shake up has been prompted by grass roots pressure owing to the economic crisis.

A Hanoi-based diplomat was recently reported as saying that about 60 people in Vietnam died each day from starvation, and that Vietnam had an urgent need to import agricultural technology.



Mr Nguyen Co Thach, veteran foreign minister was promoted to vice-chairman of the council of ministers.

THE LEX COLUMN

I'd rather be in Philadelphia

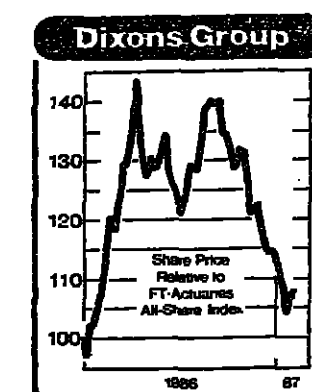
There was always a danger that Dixons without Woolworth would carry around an air of permanent anti-climax, and since last summer the shares have indeed been calling for something more Homeric than good trading figures to lift the gloom. This appears to have been neatly achieved by yesterday's recommended offer for Cyclops, a small US conglomerate which contains a fast-growing chain of out-of-town electrical retailers, known as Silo.

Having presold an unwanted steel business, and even before making arrangements to slough off some marginal-looking DIY sheds, Dixons has thus bought over \$500m of brown and white goods turnover for a net cost of \$311m, without needing to unload its stake in Woolworth. Though the multiple of 1986 net income is no give-away at 25 times, Dixons has come into an auction prepared to pay a premium for agreement, and can still expect to avoid dilution in the first year.

Thereafter, the purchase of Silo looks to make good strategic sense. Out-of-town electrical chains are rapidly taking market share away from the independent retailers, and also from disillusioned department stores; the market is very large, at \$36bn, and growing modestly in real terms. By taking on a well-run and reasonably well positioned operator, Dixons has bought the kernel of what might become a much larger business within the next three or four years. And that is about the time when yesterday's partly-paid convertible preference shares become eligible for conversion.

Such a constraint has not applied in the less-regulated Euroequity market, which has continued to grow rapidly, despite the little continental difficulty with Fiat. All the same it must be something of a record for Warburg Securities to be lead manager for four Euroequity issues simultaneously: those for Kreditbank, Hemlo, Merck AG and Investors Group of Canada.

Warburg Securities appears to be the only one of the UK securities houses to be making sizeable inroads - at least manager level - in what has been a market dominated by the Americans, the Swiss and the Germans. Which is what Big Bang was supposed to be for: to enable the UK to be in the vanguard of the international securities market rather than just its landlord.



ly to protect shareholders against these liabilities, splitting the group into cigarette and food companies with separate quotes does seem to offer the prospect of a higher multiple for the food element. The fact that tobacco is still generating nearly twice the profit on barely half the sales of the food stock (perhaps it could be called Reynolds?) might trade well enough on income grounds, future claims included.

Banking takeovers

The British banks will no doubt continue to fret about the possibility of being taken over by foreigners with more money than sense, but the Treasury's pronouncements yesterday give them all the protection they should reasonably have expected.

The application of the reciprocity provisions of the Financial Services Act to the question of banking takeovers is not as simple as it appears. It may mean that a foreign bank could not take over a UK bank if that gave it the right to engage in financial services which a UK bank was not permitted to carry out in the home market of the acquirer. Yet it is clear that the rule has been framed with the Japanese banking licences. The point, however, is that the British are fairly sure that the Japanese would not permit a UK bank to take over a Japanese one. But how could that be demonstrated? There may now be an interesting little game in which one of the UK clearers will volunteer to mount a bid for control of some obscure Japanese bank, just to prove it.

But the real giveaway is Mr Ian Stewart's remark that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission will continue to be able to investigate and reject takeovers on public interest grounds. This may have caused relief at the Bank of England, but it makes a mockery of the review of mergers policy. It is the curse of the current system that the Monopolies Commission is expected not just to arbitrate on matters of competition but also to judge on whether those considerations are outweighed by such a vague concept as the public good.

Reynolds

Diversification, as supposed to culminate around the turn of the century in an earnings composition that is completely smokeless. What with the clampdown on smoking in Broadway theatres, and the threat of lawsuits from passive smokers in the high-rolling US courts, there is every reason for US tobacco groups to hurry the process. RJR-Nabisco's musings about having the cigarette business off sound like the thoughts of a management that is thinking furiously how to segregate the potential liabilities in a sort of cancer-claimants' trust.

Even if the device fails complete-

Euro-Equities

Given the strength of the recent surge in UK equities it is a little surprising, notwithstanding Dixons's issue yesterday, that there have not been more sizeable attempts by the corporate sector to exploit the apparently insatiable demand for its stock. Perhaps the authorities lie behind this: at least during the British Airways take-off they will not have wanted to risk a collision with any other large object attempting to get airborne.

Norfolk Southern bids for Piedmont

By William Hall in New York

NORFOLK SOUTHERN, the big railroad and transportation group, has offered to buy Piedmont Aviation, one of the most successful medium-sized US airlines, for \$65 a share cash, in a deal which values the group at \$1.5bn.

Norfolk Southern is one of several companies which have shown interest in acquiring the North Carolina-based carrier. Piedmont disclosed yesterday that it had also received an offer from USAir, a similar sized carrier, but had rejected it in favour of Norfolk Southern's all cash bid.

The deal, recommended by Piedmont's independent directors, is the biggest merger to date in the US airline industry in terms of value. It is also the latest in a spate of mergers which is transforming the structure of the US airline industry.

Piedmont, the ninth largest US airline with a fleet of 180 jets and 20,000 employees, is one of the few airlines to have made continuous profits during a period when the US airline industry has been deregulated and several of the major carriers have been forced to seek merger partners in order to avoid going out of business.

Norfolk Southern, which has had a stake of close to 20 per cent in Piedmont for more than five years, has been keen to diversify out of its traditional railroad activities and has about \$1bn in cash after its abortive bid for Conrail, the US Government-owned railroad, which was barred by the US Congress.

Piedmont shares jumped by \$5 5/8 to \$64 3/4 in early trading yesterday while Norfolk Southern's shares slipped by \$1 1/8 to \$93 1/2.

Ever since Norfolk Southern first announced its interest in possibly making a bid for Piedmont last month, some analysts have questioned the group's interest in entering a highly cyclical industry such as the airline business where margins are often squeezed by fierce competition.

However, Piedmont has a reputation of being well managed and consistently profitable. In 1986 it earned \$72.4m, or \$3.45 per share, on sales of \$1.9bn.

Piedmont said that it had received two other takeover proposals from USAir. The company had offered to merge with Piedmont in a paper offer valuing the company at \$71 per share on a part cash/part stock merger offering \$34 in cash and a portion of USAir shares valued at \$34 per share. USAir shares rose by 5% to \$42 1/2 in early trading yesterday.

Low UK January borrowing offers scope for big tax cuts

BY JANET BUSH AND PETER RIDDELL IN LONDON

A SUBSTANTIAL surplus on UK Government finances in January has left borrowing in the year so far at a negligible level and underlined confidence that Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, will not only be able to deliver sizeable tax cuts in his annual set-piece budget but also announce a lower borrowing target for next year.

Figures released yesterday showed a net repayment of £3.7bn (\$5.6bn), higher than most forecasts, leaving the cumulative Public Sector Requirement (PSR) in the first 10 months of the current financial year at only £400m.

In response to these figures, independent economists revised their forecasts for the final PSBR this year to about £4bn compared with Mr Lawson's projection of £7.1bn.

Confidence in an undershoot had already been riding high because of a string of figures during last autumn showing an unexpected buoyancy in corporation tax and value added tax receipts. Yesterday's figures further confirmed the comfort of the Government's position on borrowing.

A substantial undershoot on this year's PSBR would provide a favourable background to the budget on March 17. February's borrowing data will be published on the morning of the Chancellor's speech while the final set of figures for March will be released after the budget.

One consensus view has emerged among independent economists on



Mr Nigel Lawson, British Chancellor

the likely mix for next year's fiscal adjustment. They believe the Chancellor could cut 5p off the basic rate of tax and announce a £5bn PSBR next year.

Mr Lawson is being advised, however, both by fellow ministers and by senior party members, not to reduce higher rates of income tax in the budget on March 17 but to wait until after the general election.

A significant feature is that this advice is coming from all wings of the party including those prominent as advocates of free market or so-called "dry" views. These opinions have been expressed at a series of meetings which Mr Lawson has been having with ministers, parliamentary private secretaries and small groups of MPs.

The issue is seen entirely as one of timing. A common view is that it would be politically unwise for Mr Lawson to be seen to be favouring

the already well-off in an election year.

Over the longer term, however, there is growing support among Tory MPs for a cut in higher rates, last reduced in 1979, particularly after the substantial lowering of US marginal tax rates. Indeed, even former "wet" ministers such as Mr Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, have been arguing that it is necessary to reduce the top UK income tax rates after what has happened in the US, to prevent an outflow of highly-skilled talent from Britain.

UK Treasury officials yesterday acknowledged in the strongest terms yet that there were clear signs that the PSBR was heading for an undershoot, although they advised against over-optimism because of various factors which could boost borrowing in February and March beyond levels normally seen in previous years.

One key factor is changes in the timing of receipts of Composite Rate Tax from building societies, the savings institutions. These are now spread over the full year rather than lumped into the final quarter which will mean lower than normal receipts in February and March.

Petroleum revenue tax receipts will also be lower than usual, as Mr Lawson pointed out in his Autumn Statement, because of the fall in the oil price last year. There could also be a pick-up in local authority borrowing, which has been somewhat lower than anticipated, in the last two months of the fiscal year.

Order delay forces Vosper cutback

BY KEVIN BROWN IN LONDON

VOSPER THORNYCROFT, the privatised UK naval shipbuilder, last night announced 400 redundancies at its Southampton and Portsmouth shipyards in southern England.

The company said the redundancies were caused by a two-year delay in the Ministry of Defence's ordering programme for Royal Navy minihunters.

Vosper Thornycroft, which made

300 workers redundant in September, was sold to its management for £18.5m (\$27.75) by British Shipbuilders in 1985 as part of the Government's privatisation of warship yards.

The company made a pre-tax profit of £3.7m in its first five months in the private sector, and is believed to have remained profitable in the current financial year. But no naval orders have been

placed with the yard since privatisation.

Mr Peter Usher, managing director, said the company had hoped to win an order for three Sandown class glass-reinforced plastic minihunters for which it is in competition with Vauxhall, the UK's only other builder of minihunters.

The company will have about 1,900 workers after the latest redundancies.

Moscow set to reveal weapons stocks

Continued from Page 1

On another difficulty - US insistence that compliance with a treaty has to be strictly verified through a procedure allowing for inspection on challenge anywhere and anytime - Mr Nazarkin also appeared to represent a shift in Moscow's position.

The Soviet Union would accept automatic inspection of declared chemical weapon facilities and facilities which support a British idea that a challenge could be met not only by immediate inspection but by offering to supply information within a fixed delay to satisfy the challenger. But the problem remained of

what to do, if the challenger was not satisfied, Mr Nazarkin pointed out.

He suggested that use could also be made of the experience and practices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in monitoring compliance with regulations at civil nuclear plants. He conceded, too, that the Soviet Union could consider random inspection along the lines of that carried out by the IAEA.

The new Soviet proposals were tabled the day after Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, had

told an international peace forum in Moscow that the Soviet Union wanted chemical weapons totally abolished. They were aimed at intensifying the Geneva talks so that a treaty could be finalised this year, Mr Nazarkin said.

But, he said, US plans to push ahead with production of new so-called binary chemical weapons could complicate matters. Binaries are chemical compounds which combine to form toxic chemicals when combined after firing - would make verification of compliance with the treaty more difficult.

UK seeks to curb foreign bank bids

Continued from Page 1

would not be able to object until the stake reached 15 per cent.

Mr Stewart said yesterday that he believed the new provisions "will greatly strengthen the Bank of England's powers in relation to undesirable bank shareholders."

The new measures come in response to concern in the banking industry and at the Bank of England that the Banking Bill contains insufficient powers to control foreign purchases of UK bank shares. As originally drafted, the Bill empowered the Bank to block acquisitions only on grounds that the purchaser was not "a fit and proper person." These powers are now to be extended to include reciprocity considerations.

Although Japan's name was not mentioned in any of the documentation yesterday, the measures were clearly designed to put further pressure on the Tokyo Government to improve access to its financial markets for foreigners.

However, the Treasury admits that this is more a matter of judgment than fact, because no foreign bank is yet known to have tried to buy a stake in a major Japanese bank.

The Bank of England welcomed the amendments last night. But they may not satisfy some sections of the banking community and those MPs who believe that the Government should seek powers to block acquisitions of UK bank

shares on national interest grounds.

Mr Stewart anticipated their objections yesterday by saying that such powers already exist at the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which he pledged that the Government would continue to use.

He said: "The Government's policy in applying the powers under the Fair Trading Act takes full account of the public interest, and any projected foreign takeover of a British bank will continue to be subject to that policy, as indeed has happened in the past."

The recently enacted Financial Services Act already empowers the Government to cancel the licence of a foreign-owned bank on reciprocity grounds.



Quality in an age of change.

World Weather

Area	Temp	Wind	Area	Temp	Wind	Area	Temp	Wind	Area	Temp	Wind
Amman	10	10	London	12	10	Moscow	14	10	Paris	16	10
Algiers	20	10	Manchester	12	10	Nairobi	18	10	Rome	18	10
Ankara	10	10	Madrid	12	10	Rangoon	28	10	Sao Paulo	22	10
Bahia	24	10	Frankfurt	12	10	Santiago	18	10	Seoul	18	10
Bombay	32	10	Geneva	12	10	Shanghai	18	10	Singapore	28	10
Buenos Aires	18	10	Helsinki	12	10	Stockholm	18	10	Taipei	22	10
Calcutta	28	10	Osaka	12	10	Tokyo	18	10	Tel Aviv	18	10
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Simple superiority suddenly superseded

BY MICHAEL DIXON

WHENEVER the Jobs column's creditors grow restless, it wishes it had a fiercer for every time it has heard a certain remark.

On each occasion the remark was made by a university academic while commenting on a particular topic. The topic was complaints by business people that Britain's universities do not produce the kind of people most needed by the economy. What the academics typically said was:

"I can't see what they're complaining about. Many of our highly able people go into industry and commerce every year."

That sentiment has been expressed to me so often that I have developed a standard response. It is: "Please forgive me, but I'm not quite clear what you mean by 'highly able people'. Do you by any chance mean people like you?"

To date, oddly enough, it has always turned out that they did. Moreover, although modesty should perhaps forbid me to say so, for the purposes of the discussion that followed they usually seemed to include me in the selfsame category.

So I have come to regard "highly able people" as being an alternative name for "people like us" — or "plus people", for short — who I of course assume similarly include readers of this column.

By the same token, we fortunately also gain an alternative

name for the other people we have hitherto had no choice but to depict as being of low ability or even as unintelligent. Those terms have never been satisfactory for describing the individuals concerned. After all, they are not necessarily to blame for their low ability no matter how inferior they may be.

Henceforth, however, we can refer to them as "people unlike us" — or "minus people", for short — which enables us to avoid being so openly condescending while still sharing in a sense of our own superiority.

The only trouble is that the whole neat terminological scheme looks apt to be undermined by an announcement just sent to me by Barclays Bank. The nub of the announcement is that the bank is to finance research at Cambridge University into the management of high-technology businesses.

While that in itself may appear all well and good, the reason why Barclays is supporting the study contains a nasty twist. It is that the bank is plus-people. Matthew Bullock, one of the bank's corporate finance directors, says it is giving the money because its experience of high-technology companies convinces it that "much more needs to be understood about the management of clever people."

Now it is painfully clear that although an appreciable number of the staff of such com-

panies have similarities with people like us, most if not all of them also have a definite difference. They actually know what makes high-tech devices work even if they do not have qualifications in outlandish subjects such as electronic engineering and computer science (which before computing became fashionable, universities used to call "applied mathematics").

It is painfully clear too that, if only because there is not enough room in organisations' high executive offices for all plus-people to reach the very top, the majority of us have been under somebody else's management since well before anyone ever heard of high-tech companies. And experience suggests that neither our superiors nor their bankers believe that they have anything important yet to learn about managing us.

Hence there is a further painfully clear conclusion to be inferred from Mr Bullock's statement relating exclusively to high-tech businesses. It is that when he talks about much more needing to be understood about the management of clever people, he is not referring to people-like-us as such.

He obviously means a far smaller group who are still more superior. So it seems that the rest of us are not plus-people at all. We are at best alpha-minuses.

I naturally regret having to reveal that appalling fact to

readers. But since it is a fact, our only sensible course is to face it and decide what to do about it.

Plainly some face-saving compromise is called for, and the one I suggest is to scrap the distinction between plus-people and minus-people altogether. Instead, we should work on the assumption that there is virtually no such thing as either a comprehensively able person or a totally unable one — that pretty well everybody has talents which are to be valued and respected even if they are not intellectual but practical.

In short, it is time for us to accept two basic beliefs. The first is that the only people who exist to be managed are clever people. The second is that if they do not act as though they are clever as a result, then it is probably at least as much their managers' fault as their own.

Finance chiefs

RECRUITER Peter Kay is seeking a brace of financial chiefs for separate companies which he may not name. He therefore promises to abide by any applicant's request not to be identified to the employer. So does the other head-hunter mentioned later.

The first job, centred in the Thames Valley, is with a brand new venture on the part of an international computer manufacturer to market advanced systems primarily to financial

institutions and associated service companies. Since the new finance manager will be joining right at the outset, the tasks will include helping to establish the business's strategy in addition to setting up and developing its financial systems and controls.

Candidates should be finance specialists with a record testifying to high commercial awareness. They should also have a good knowledge not only of what's what in the City of London but also of who's really who, and first-hand experience of starting a business operation virtually from scratch.

Salary indicator £30,000-£45,000, with other benefits for negotiation.

Mr Kay's second opening is for a director of finance and administration with a £100m turnover importer of commercial vehicles, based in the Midlands.

Commercial awareness is again a prime requirement of the job, which will include responsibility for working out and putting into force appropriate company-wide procedures for its personnel and data processing activities as well as for the financial and general management of the business.

Applicants should have been successful in running at least a medium-sized finance function, with responsibility for determining and achieving long-run objectives. People with previous

experience in the automotive or contract-hire trade would have an advantage.

Salary will be in the same wide bracket of £30,000 to £45,000 with perks negotiable. Inquiries about either post to Kay Consultancy, 1 New Bond St, London W1Y 9PE; telephone 01-888 1114 or 01-483 7322.

Hunters hunted

LASTLY today we have a case of a headhunter hunting heads for other headhunters. The party of the first part as it were, is Peter Purdon of John Couris and Partners.

One of his two quarries is an established executive-search specialist to work from London as a partner of a fairly young search operation. Basic salary will be about £25,000, plus a profit-share by which the newcomer will be expected to earn a further £10,000 at a minimum. Other benefits include a car.

The second person sought is a top-notch all-round recruiter to join the expanding selection business of one of the top 20 firms of chartered accountants. Developed skill in coping with the idiosyncrasies of such professional partnerships is essential.

Salary again about £25,000 plus incentive bonus and car. Inquiries to Mr Purdon at 104 Marylebone Lane, London W1M 5PU. Those who would rather telephone than write can contact him through 0625 529870.

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As a result of the rapid development of the Euro-Equity market, a leading European Investment bank is seeking a talented investment analyst to augment its international research team. Whilst previous experience in the Continental European sector would be an obvious advantage, a background in UK Equity research coupled with fluency in one or more European languages would also be appropriate. Education to degree level is, however, a pre-requisite. Salary will not be a barrier for appropriate applicants.

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Our client, an established UK Stockbroker now wholly owned by a prestigious international bank, requires an experienced private client fund manager.

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Please contact Hilary Douglas, Stuart Clifford, or Christopher Lawless.

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Suitable candidates will have trained with international firms and then gained experience of domestic corporate finance or international capital markets transactions with a City financial institution. Applicants with strong linguistic abilities will be at a distinct advantage.

CORPORATE FINANCE EXECUTIVES

£20,000-£35,000 + Benefits

We are recruiting on behalf of several of the City's market leaders in Corporate Finance for young, ambitious professionals who are ready to become closely involved in all aspects of corporate advisory work — from Business Expansion Schemes to Mergers and Acquisitions.

Candidates will be recently qualified graduates ACAs or Solicitors who have trained with large City firms. Ideally, their recent experience will have included exposure to substantial Stock Exchange or Merchant Banking transactions.

In addition, applicants must display the range of personal and communications skills to ensure success in a highly competitive and challenging environment.

For more details call Tim Clarke ACA, Jon Michel or Robert Digby (who can be contacted outside office hours on 01-870 1896).

BADENOCH & CLARK

THE FINANCIAL RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS
16-18 NEW BRIDGE STREET, BLACKFRIARS, LONDON EC4.
TELEPHONE: 01-583 0073

COMPANY SECRETARY

ADMINISTRATOR

A fully qualified Chartered Secretary required for a medium size Group of Companies active in Construction and Property Development in the UK, USA and Western Australia. For this appointment candidates require a practical commercial background, covering company secretarial duties, general administration and corporate relations.

Other attributes required are business judgment and commercial acumen, and ability to give legal advice and contribute to overall strategy. Preferred age range is 35-45 and the successful candidate will be based at Romford, Essex, and responsible to the Group Chairman.

Please write, in confidence, giving full details of previous experience and salary required to:

Mr H. Cowan
H. WEBB (CONSTRUCTION)
LTD
Southend Arterial Road,
Romford, Essex RM3 0NU

Cambridge Capital Developments

Managing Director

New Development Capital Fund

Our client, Cambridge Capital Management Limited, is the managing partner for a substantial new Development and Venture Capital fund. Cambridge Capital Developments is a limited partnership to which seven Cambridge Colleges and a number of major investing institutions have undertaken to contribute substantial initial funds.

We have been retained to locate an outstanding individual to be the first Managing Director of the management company for this Fund, who will also manage the associated technology transfer enterprise, Cambridge Research and Innovation Limited. With responsibility primarily to the participating contributors, the position will be an independent command where management ability, investment experience and initiative will be important. The successful candidate is likely to have a professional qualification, and a track record in the selection, management and realisation of development capital opportunities in a spread of industries. The person appointed will probably be working in a Development Capital organisation at Senior Director level. He/she can expect to utilise to the full the close relationships already established with the technological departments of the University and with the Colleges.

Whilst being located in Cambridge, investment opportunities will be sought not only amongst the technologically based companies for which the region is becoming well known, but also in a range of industries and locations which will give a balanced spread of investments.

A competitive remuneration package, together with an equity share, will be offered, with relocation allowances if necessary.

Please contact in confidence the company's advisers in this matter, Colin Barry or James Curtis, at Overton Shirley & Barry, 64 Queen Street, London EC4R 1AD. Tel: 01-248 0355.

Overton Shirley & Barry

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND SELECTION CONSULTANTS

CLEARING BANKERS

Join a Market Leader in the City

Our client is a leading U.K. merchant bank which has succeeded in sustaining an impressive growth pattern. Specialising in all types of working capital for corporate customers, the provision of traditional banking services continues to be a significant and highly profitable activity. To match further expansion and profitability of these services, several opportunities have arisen in the following areas:

BRANCH MANAGEMENT

This is an excellent opportunity to combine branch management with a career in lending. Responsible for the day-to-day management of the banking operations of the branch, you will also be directly in control of a portfolio of both personal and corporate clients. The level of customer contact demands a high degree of interpersonal skills and professionalism. Preferably in your late twenties, you should have an AIB and up to five years' clearing bank experience.

Each of these positions offers great scope to combine technical and marketing skills in a fast growing and dynamic environment. Suitable candidates will be ambitious and self-motivated, seeking a greater career challenge. In return our client can offer an excellent salary package and a full range of banking benefits.

Please apply directly to Sue Bennett or Felicity Hother on 01-606 1706 or send a Curriculum Vitae to the address below.

Anderson, Squires Ltd
Financial Recruitment Specialists
127 Cheapside, London EC2 6BU

AMBITIOUS LENDING BANKER

This is an ideal first move for a graduate clearing banker. Providing lending — based services to small corporates, you will also be expected to identify and develop new business opportunities. Managing the current account services, an up to date knowledge of money transmission is also essential. You should be a good communicator, able to negotiate effectively at all levels with corporate customers.

MARKETING STERLING OPERATIONS

This is a key position in the management team responsible for marketing and servicing current account banking facilities. Primarily responsible for marketing to corporate customers, you will also be expected to identify and develop new business opportunities. Managing the current account services, an up to date knowledge of money transmission is also essential. You should be a good communicator, able to negotiate effectively at all levels with corporate customers.

Anderson, Squires

Broker Services Limited

General Manager—Settlement

{ Glasgow }

Broker Services Limited's exceptional growth in the provision of clearing services for major United Kingdom and overseas Stockbroking Firms and Investment Houses has created the need for a General Manager—Settlement. The role is accountable to the Chief Operations Officer for over 100 staff located in London and Glasgow engaged in the settlement of transactions within the United Kingdom and overseas on behalf of clients.

As the job requires close liaison with the Stock Exchange and other regulatory bodies, coupled with proven

management skills, it is unlikely that anyone under the age of 35 will have the necessary depth and breadth of experience. The ideal candidate will probably have membership of the Stock Exchange, and be already running a settlement function involving 200-250 employees, for a major UK Stockbroker. Alternatively, experience could have been gained in the securities sector of banking. Knowledge of overseas markets would be desirable.

Though accountable for both London and Glasgow offices, the successful applicant will be located in Glasgow.

The total compensation package reflects the importance of this new role and will attract applicants with a proven track record who are seeking a challenge along with good long term career and salary prospects.

Please send full CV, with present salary, in complete confidence quoting reference MCS/14 to David Gibb, Executive Selection Division Price Waterhouse Management Consultants 1 Blythswood Square Glasgow G2 4AD

Price Waterhouse



FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONSULTANT / DEALER

THE JOB

The work entails providing professional consulting/trading services to major international companies and financial institutions in Europe. Consultancy is given at the highest corporate levels in an international environment with frequent travel.

THE QUALIFICATIONS

He/she will have a degree in economics and/or finance or equivalent experience. Our candidate will be in his/her late twenties to late thirties and must have gained professional experience in the international currency markets.

EXPERIENCE The candidate should have worked with a European company/bank for at least two years in an international treasury/finance position and he/she must be a self-starting individual.

Please address curriculum vitae to:

FINTECH (U.K.) LIMITED
FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES (U.K.) LIMITED
14 High Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1LD 0763 842022

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MINSTER EXECUTIVE LTD

28 Bolton Street, London W1Y 8HB. Tel: 01-493 1309/1085

SENIOR FX DEALER

We are seeking to recruit an enterprising dealer to assist in the continuing development of our FX activities. The major emphasis of our FX operations is on forward dollar mark trading and servicing a growing customer base, both spot and forward. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of four years' experience, gained principally in trading forward currencies, but also with some exposure to spot operations. The remuneration package is competitive and will include a performance-related bonus.

Please apply in writing to:
The Personnel Manager
BAYERISCHE LANDESBANK GIZOZENTRALE
33 King Street, London EC2V 8EE

Director Intermediary and Overseas Sales

FINANCIAL SERVICES

The company - part of a major British group - markets a range of services in the provision of unit-linked life assurance, pensions, insurance broking, investment in unit trusts and off-shore funds. Funds under management exceed £2 billion.

● **THE ROLE** is to develop business in insurance broking; in sales to intermediaries and in the overseas markets. European travel is involved.

● **THE NEED** is for a graduate or professionally qualified person with successful, closely related experience at senior level with demonstrable strengths in Sales and Marketing. Age range 35-55.

Remuneration c. £40,000 plus excellent additional benefits.

Write in complete confidence to:

St. James's Corporate Consulting

Dept. 35, St. James's House, 4/7 Red Lion Court, Fleet Street,
London EC4A 3EB

Morgan Guaranty Ltd COMMERCIAL LAWYER

International Capital Markets

Morgan Guaranty Ltd is the capital markets affiliate of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, one of the world's premier financial institutions with offices in major financial centres worldwide and assets exceeding \$67 billion.

We are presently seeking a solicitor to join our transaction execution team. You should have at least three years' post qualification experience gained in a leading practice. The appointment offers wide exposure to the international capital markets which will include swaps, bond issues, loan syndications, euro-commercial paper and corporate finance generally.

Remuneration will include an attractive salary and benefits package including a company car, a profit sharing bonus, a mortgage subsidy, a non-contributory pension scheme, and medical and life insurance plans.

Write, with full career details or telephone for a form or an initial discussion, all in complete confidence to Philip Johnson or Roland Orr as advisors at Roland Orr & Partners, Management Consultants, 12 New Burlington Street, London W1X 1FF. Telephone 01-439 6891

"Start up" situation for major bank SECURITIES SETTLEMENTS MANAGER c.£30,000 + car + benefits

Our client is a well known banking institution involved recently in the establishment of an investment banking subsidiary. Its traditional strengths will ensure considerable trading volumes; not only in U.S. Treasuries, Eurobonds and a wide range of other fixed income and money market areas, but also "off Balance Sheet" products.

The organisation places a high premium on the quality of its management and seeks an outstanding individual to manage all aspects of back-office administration; so that as well as controlling settlements, the candidate should have a strong awareness of new products, cash management/control and accounting.

The ideal candidate will have strong technical and man-management skills. They will probably be working, at present, in a medium or large sales/trading environment as Manager or Assistant Manager. Previous experience of a fast growing environment and adaptability to change will be a considerable advantage. Salary and benefits, therefore, will not be an obstacle for a candidate of quality.

Interested candidates should contact Kevin Byrne on 01-248-3653, or 076382-728 outside office hours, or send a detailed C.V. to the address below. All applications are treated in strictest confidence.

BBM

60, Cheapside, London EC2V 6AX

Telephone: 01-248 3653

CONSULTANTS IN RECRUITMENT

Investment Banker/Deal Maker

MMG Patricof & Co Ltd is engaged in advisory and merger and acquisition work for entrepreneurial companies. Our strength is in helping our clients to identify and realise international opportunities. We work closely with affiliates in New York, Palo Alto and Paris and we focus on larger opportunities in growth industry sectors such as electronics, health care and communications where our venture capital colleagues in Alan Patricof Associates have complementary activities. We are seeking individuals who combine deal making skills with excellent knowledge of a dynamic industry sector. Desirable candidates are likely to be in their 30s with a background in management consulting and/or international investment banking, who have good personal contacts with decision-makers. Experience in acquisition evaluation and implementation with an entrepreneurial international company would be highly relevant. Language ability would also be valuable.

Profit sharing will form part of an excellent remuneration package.

Please write, enclosing a full curriculum vitae together with a letter explaining how you could contribute to our further growth, to:

Raymond Douse, Managing Director
MMG Patricof & Co. Ltd
24 Upper Brook Street, London, W1Y 1PD

CORPORATE FINANCE

Hoare Govett's highly respected Corporate Finance Department is currently expanding and we need to recruit two additional people:

● The senior appointment is for a professionally qualified person who has had several years experience in Corporate Finance either with a bank or broking house. If you are looking to join a highly motivated team with a broad client base we could offer you a very challenging opportunity.

● Our second vacancy would also suit a professionally qualified person (either law or accountancy) in their mid-twenties; ideally with some experience of corporate work. We can offer a very demanding environment in which to develop skills amongst leading experts in this field.

It is our policy only to recruit the very best personnel and to reward them appropriately. If you think that you meet our requirements please write with a full Curriculum Vitae to:

Ruth Colley
Personnel Manager
Hoare Govett Limited
4 Broadgate, London EC2M 7LE

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**HOARE
GOVETT**

Investment Officer Circa £18,500

We seek an experienced Investment Officer and/or qualified accountant with relevant experience to control all the accounting and investment administration of the County Council's superannuation fund. Proven managerial ability is essential as the successful candidate will head a team responsible for the administration of a fund valued at £450m which employs four investment managers and two property advisers. Investment of the fund is undertaken on a worldwide basis involving numerous marketmakers/brokers. There is emphasis on investment research associated with the validation and interpretation of portfolio performance statistics. There is a need for the successful candidate to maintain good effective relationships with the fund managers and display a keen interest in all investment matters.

The benefits we offer include:

* relocation package up to £5000

* temporary housing available

For more information about these posts, phone Mike Wells,

Principal Assistant County Treasurer, on Maidstone (0622)

671411 ext. 4550.

For an application form and job description write to the

Departmental Personnel Officer, County Treasurer's

Department, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent or telephone 0622

671411 ext. 4574. Closing date for receipt of completed

application forms 27th February 1987.

Kent County Council

INTERNATIONAL SPECIALISTS FINANCE, ACCOUNTANCY AND MARKETING

Exceptional position for exceptional individuals with multinationals, large and small, working language English, other languages a plus, locations worldwide, but mostly in Europe and UK, various levels of travel. Clients include banks, hi-tech, industrial and consumer manufacturers and traders. Register now to receive a regular update by sending a business card or cv to:

THORBURN & ASSOCIATES, Box 1225, 1001 Lausanne, Switzerland

Institutional Equity Sales

Prudential-Bache Capital Funding (Equities) Limited is a leading London broker that is part of the Prudential Securities Group Inc., itself a subsidiary of the largest non-bank financial institution in the world, the Prudential Insurance Company of America. We have the financial backing and the global distribution systems associated with a leading US investment bank.

Continuing expansion of our UK, Canadian and US Equity Sales departments means that we are now looking for senior sales people with experience in Institutional Equity Sales.

Your experience will already have been gained in a transaction-orientated research sales role. You will have established a proven record of success in marketing equities to UK institutions and you will be looking for a company that recognises and rewards success.

If you fulfil the above requirements and are interested in joining an energetic and professional sales team with a company that is on the move, please contact: Fraser Jennings (UK Equities), Tony Marshall (Canadian Equities) or Ray Giles (US Equities) at Prudential-Bache Capital Funding, 9 Devonshire Square, London EC2, Telephone 01-283 9166.

Prudential-Bache Capital Funding
(Equities) Limited

A Career in Investment Management? (Bonds, Futures, Options, Mortgages)

The development of our Fund management business requires additional expertise in the fixed interest and currency markets. The successful applicant will be expected to contribute to the Fixed Interest team formulating economic and market analysis and assisting in managing client portfolios.

He or she will have a good degree, preferably 1-2 years experience in an investment or banking environment and be in the age range 22-26.

This is a challenging opportunity for the right candidate and a competitive package will be offered. Foreign & Colonial Management Group is one of the oldest and best established investment groups in the City of London. With over £2 billion under management the Group manages the portfolios of investment trusts, unit trusts, pension funds, charities and private clients.

Apply in confidence to Adam Parkin, Foreign & Colonial Management Limited, 1 Laurence Pountney Hill, London EC4. (Tel. 01-623 4680).

Foreign & Colonial
MANAGEMENT GROUP

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY

Opportunity for shareholding and directorship

Orr & Boss and Partners was founded by two of the pioneers of management consultancy in Europe. Over recent years, the new Orr & Boss companies formed in Switzerland and USA with employee participation have been very successful. Now the original UK company is restructuring its ownership to involve the senior consultancy staff. Our highly motivated team covers all aspects of management consultancy which lead to improvements in client profitability. Recently our work in the manufacturing and financial sectors has involved new approaches in INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, RESOURCE UTILISATION and the MOTIVATION OF KEY STAFF.

Our new structure provides an opportunity for someone who is developing a consultancy service complementary to that of Orr & Boss, but who would gain through becoming a director and shareholder of a well managed, financially sound, firm of management consultants which has been held in high esteem for 40 years.

If you are a creative senior consultant with a record of success in negotiating at the highest level and would like to explore this exciting opportunity please send your C.V. etc. to:

Gordon Walker, Managing Director,
THE ORR & BOSS GROUP OF COMPANIES,
62 St. Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4JS.

ORR & BOSS

BULLION BROKER

EXCO INTERNATIONAL p.l.c.

is shortly to transfer the activities of its Zurich based bullion broking subsidiary to London. The new company is looking for staff with at least 2 years experience of bullion broking or trading. Salary packages will be competitive and include a profit related bonus.

Please apply with full C.V. to Paul W. Burnand, Director, Exco International p.l.c. 80, Cannon Street, London EC4N 6LJ. Tel. 01-623 4040.

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Fletcher Hunt, Prudential House, 77 Old Broad Street, London WC1R 0HS

**FLETCHER HUNT
OPENS DOORS**

DIRECTOR COMMONWEALTH PRESS UNION

Applications are invited for the appointment of Director of the Commonwealth Press Union, which serves the interests of member newspapers, news agencies and periodicals throughout the Commonwealth. The post is London-based and the successful candidate will be expected to assume operational duties as soon as possible.

The activities of the Union concern Press freedom, newspaper management and journalistic training and telecommunications generally.

Some knowledge of the media and of the Commonwealth is desirable. Administrative and executive experience are prime requirements. The successful candidate will be responsible for implementation of agreed policies; organising conferences; ensuring proper financial and administrative control and supervising a small secretariat. Occasional overseas travel is involved.

Age—preferably early 50s. Salary negotiable. Non-contributory pension scheme and company car. Applications, by 15th March 1987, in confidence with a full c.v. and naming two referees, to:

Vice-Chairman of Council,
Commonwealth Press Union, Studio House
Hen & Chickens Court, 184 Fleet Street
London EC4A 2DU, England

EXECUTIVE JOBS

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32 Saville Row, London, W1T 3JL Tel: 01 734 3878 (24 hrs).

Connaught

Background in Securities Investment?

Align Your Career with a Leader

c.£25k with Benefits

Sowerby's Selection

The City-based arm of an enterprising international trust bank which has enjoyed rapid expansion in recent years in its domestic territory, my client is now proceeding to implement the next stage in its planned parallel growth in the U.K.

Backed by extensive resources and a diverse and impressive portfolio of services worldwide, the bank has in the last year reorganised its international operations relating to money, foreign exchange and securities in order especially to reinforce and expand its activities in capital markets.

As a result there is now a requirement for a talented and ambitious SECURITIES INVESTMENT OFFICER to sustain the development of this programme.

Probably a finance or economics graduate in your mid-twenties and offering some two years' relevant experience in the capital markets arena, you should be capable of managing a significant FRN exposure and demonstrate a sure touch in calculating and forecasting movements.

While the overall coverage will also extend to straight bonds, especially in U.S. dollars, and gilts, the bank's increasing involvement in European markets, notably Germany, will render specific experience in this latter area particularly relevant. Personal qualities sought include decisiveness and critical powers of judgement, and you will be capable of contributing from day one in a highly motivated team environment.

The bank is strongly committed to its declared policy of expanding its London operation, and this is an exceptionally promising opportunity for career development, offering ample scope for initiative.

Interested? Then please ring or preferably write, in total confidence, to me, Trevor G. Boon, Sowerby's (Selection) Ltd., Personnel Consultants, 508 Chesham House, 156 Regent Street, London, W1R 5EA. Tel: 01-438 6288.

Jonathan Wren

SENIOR MANAGERS ASSET FINANCE

INTERNATIONAL BANK

£Negotiable + full benefits package

As a leading international bank, our client is an integral part of an extensive network of branches and banking subsidiaries worldwide. Their marked success in the field of major asset finance has led to the identification of two additional senior appointments based in London.

1. With responsibility for an expanding aircraft portfolio the successful applicant's prime function will involve the identification, negotiation and structuring of aircraft finance transactions. Aged 28-35 years, of graduate calibre, the appointee will possess a sound knowledge of the current UK and international markets and the technical ability to take advantage of the exciting mix of financial instruments at his/her disposal.

2. To complement the skills of the aircraft finance specialist above, we request applications from similarly qualified individuals whose leasing experience has developed from a general asset base and whose strengths lie in the provision of financial advisory services and the innovative "packaging" of complex leasing transactions.

Both positions offer the opportunity to become an integral member of the management team and an attractive remuneration package is offered in line with the seniority of these appointments. Contact Jill Backhouse.

All applications will be treated in strict confidence

LONDON BRUSSELS HONG KONG SYDNEY

Jonathan Wren

Recruitment Consultants

No.1 New Street, (off Bishopsgate), London EC2M 4TP.

Telephone: 01-623 1266. Fax: 01-626 5258.

Banking Manager in East Anglia

c. £25,000 + Bank Benefits + Company Car

As part of its regional strategy our client, a city based bank, is planning to develop a presence in East Anglia.

This presence requires a Banking Manager with at least 10 years all round banking experience with a UK clearing bank and particular experience in UK commercial lending.

The successful candidate will also have the following attributes:

- * Local knowledge of East Anglia
- * Good communicator
- * Good marketing experience
- * Able to work on own initiative
- * Preferred age 30-45

Salary will be negotiable c. £25,000 and benefits will include a company car, cheap mortgage facilities, and pension and life assurance.

Please write in strict confidence with your curriculum vitae to: K. W. Causton (Ref. BM/11), Kenneth Causton & Associates, 152 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2DH. If there are any companies in which you would not be interested, please state separately.

Kenneth Causton & Associates
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For further information, call:
Jane Liversidge 01-248 5205 Daniel Berry 01-248 4782 Emma Cox 01-236 3769

Compliance – IMRO Senior Managerial Appointment

Candidates:

Senior financial service specialists currently with a major accounting/legal firm or a substantial City institution. Experience of investigations and management are essential and of training staff and EDP an advantage.

The Role:

A key position, of Manager – Compliance, at IMRO, an organisation at the heart of regulation and compliance in the investment sector.

Responsibilities:

Managing teams of specialists, on inspections and investigations relating to a wide variety of fund management and investment advisory businesses ranging from the major merchant and investment banks to the smaller independent concerns.

Rewards:

Substantial – variety, intellectual and personal challenge, a thorough grasp of the total UK investment sector and a remuneration package that will not prove a problem for the right person.

For further details, please contact Nick Root on 01-404 5751, or write enclosing a full c.v. to Michael Page City, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH. Strict confidentiality assured.



Michael Page City

International Recruitment Consultants – London Brussels New York Paris Sydney
A member of Addison Consultancy Group PLC

FORWARDS DEALER £18-35,000 + Neg

As a result of expansion many of our clients, US, European, English and Antipodean are seeking experienced forwards dealers. You should have a solid background in the forwards market gained with active trading banks. Ideally with at least one year's experience with any currency, aged 20+ and now seeking a positive career advancement. Remuneration will be negotiable.

SPOT DEALERS £18-40,000 AAE

We are currently seeking, for a number of our clients, spot dealers to join existing teams within their banks. Our clients are leading European and US banks who are looking for dealers with between 1-5 years' experience with various currencies, including Cable, S/Dmk, L/Dmk, Yen or any other major currency. Remuneration level will be according to age and experience.

OPTIONS Neg

Our client, a major American bank is seeking a person to head up and run their interest options on the sales desk, within their City branch. Experience in this area is essential. They are also seeking to recruit options traders for the foreign exchange side. Candidates will ideally be a graduate in their early to mid-twenties, with some experience in that field. Salary will be negotiable.

FINANCIAL FUTURES DEALER £Neg

Our client, a highly respectable international bank, seek an experienced financial futures dealer to establish and run their futures desk. Candidates, ideally aged in their early to late twenties, should have a strong background in the financial futures area, preferably already trading from the desk with another organisation recognised for its activity in this market. Particular experience is required in Euro, Sterling and T-Bond contracts. Salary will be commensurate with experience.

Roger Parker Organisation Bunge House, St Mary Axe,
London EC3A 8AT
01-929 1212

FX, TREASURY AND CAPITAL MARKETS RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

ALLIED LYONS

INVESTMENT CONTROLLER

Applications are invited for the post of Investment Controller of a £1 billion private sector pension fund. The fund is invested in a range of property and stock exchange assets, the latter under external management. The Investment Controller is responsible for the formulation of investment strategy, managing the managers, investment accounting and performance measurement. Duties also include consultancy work in the pension fund field.

The successful applicant is likely to have a pension fund administration or accounting background and investment experience.

Salary and benefits will match the considerable responsibilities to be undertaken. The position can be based in either London or Bristol by arrangement.

Applications giving fullest details to Mr. M. H. Oldfield, A-L Pensions Services Limited, Denmark Street, Bristol BS1 5DG.

SOCIETE GENERALE MERCHANT BANK plc
The international merchant bank of Societe Generale, Paris

FRENCH EQUITIES

Sales Executive
Research Analyst
Sales Trader
Trainee Market Maker

The Investment Department of the Merchant Bank seeks to augment its existing French Equities team. Professional experience in this particular market is not essential, but fluency in French would be a distinct advantage.

If you would like to be considered for any of these four appointments, please write in confidence to:

Tom Orsler, Head of Management Services,
Societe Generale Merchant Bank plc,
7th Floor, 60 Gracechurch Street,
London EC3V 0ET.

SECURITIES ADMINISTRATION To £20,000 p.a. plus bonus

Our client, within the World's Top 20 Banks, is currently embarking on an expansion of its International Securities and Investment business.

A consequent re-organisation of its Administration Department has created a new position, with responsibility for supervision of a small section, involved in the processing of Eurobond, Gilts, Treasury Bond and domestic Bond transactions including the funding and accounting for these instruments.

Candidates should be well educated, aged 25+ and possess the personal qualities necessary and relevant background to contribute effectively in this key role, important to the Bank's development plans.

A full benefits package will be offered to the successful candidate including a competitive salary and twice yearly bonus.

BANK
RECRUITMENT
CONSULTANTS

57/59 LONDON WALL
LONDON EC3M 5TP
TEL: 01 626 7601

Gordon Brown

Investment Analyst

Our client, a major international investment banking and securities house, now seeks an exceptional analyst to join a small team investing actively in equity markets.

Candidates, probably graduates in their mid twenties, will either have experience of investment analysis gained within a trading or fund management environment or be recently qualified accountants. The ability to respond quickly to changing conditions and to communicate ideas effectively is essential.

Working as part of the in-house trading team, responsibility will be for covering special situations within UK, European and Far Eastern equity markets. The role includes complete involvement in the activities of the team and should appeal to ambitious, entrepreneurial individuals.

There will be an attractive salary with substantial bonus potential.

Please contact Stephen Embleton, who will treat all enquiries in complete confidence.

**Lloyd
Chapman
Associates**

International
Search and Selection
160 New Bond Street, London W1Y 0HR
Telephone: 01-409 1371

Commission Sales Person (Securities Markets)

£26,000 +

A US Securities House specialising in companies in the US electronics and medical industries require a Commission Sales Person (preferably early 30's) to develop relationships with European investment institutions. The applicant should be educated to degree level, be familiar with the US Securities market and in particular the medical and electronics industries. He or she will be required to organise and participate in promotional presentations.

Remuneration of £26,000 + is offered together with the possibility of commission on brokerage business.

Please send a full CV to Victoria Fielding, PER, 4-12 Regent Street, London SW1Y 4PP.

PER

Britain's Largest Executive Recruitment Consultancy

Compliance Director

City

£ Excellent

LAURO, the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation, has been formed to monitor and regulate the marketing of life assurance and unit trust products. It is anticipated that the membership will reflect the leading names in this sector.

A Compliance Director is sought to lead the team which will ensure that members, and their employees, comply with the highest professional standards in their dealings with the public. Key tasks will involve methodology and functional development, liaison with members at senior levels and recommendations on compliance issues.

Candidates, probably in their mid 40's to mid 50's, must offer a high degree of personal and professional integrity, together with strong analytical and management skills. Experience may have been gained in a wide variety of careers, but perhaps

ideally in the life assurance or unit trust industry. Additional requirements include organisation and planning ability as well as an awareness of commercial and business pressures.

The remuneration package will be attractive to candidates of the highest calibre.

Please reply to Martin Manning in strict confidence with details of age, career and salary progression, education and qualifications, quoting reference 1709 on both envelope and letter.

**Deloitte
Haskins + Sells**

Management Consultancy Division

P.O. Box 198, Hillgate House, 26 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7PL

FUND VALUER

Manchester Fund Valuer required for highly-paid position.

Suitable applicant will be an existing valuer with a Unit Trust Group or Insurance Company.

Substantial increase on present salary and benefits.

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Financial Times
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SPOT

£15,000 to £50,000

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Professionals: Multi-disciplined senior executives managing director/CEO. Successful track record with background achievement in Europe Pacific/Asia. Special equipment/consumer products high tech. Age 40-50, based on overseas permanent basis or will consider special assignments. Location immaterial. Available March 1st 1987. Telephone 01-444 4490 after 5 pm

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Crusader Insurance plc, owned by CIGNA Corporation, one of the world's most successful insurance companies is looking for two creative and dynamic professionals for its Technical Services Team.

You will need to have a background of at least 3-5 years experience of the life insurance industry, including linked life and pensions products. As key members of the team you will be responsible for the development of technical and financial planning services and training support for sales staff and intermediaries, related to both existing and new products.

These must be some of the most challenging and exciting life and pensions development appointments available at the moment, for which we will negotiate an excellent salary and benefits package.

Please apply in writing or by telephone to: Mr John Henney, Personnel Department, Crusader Insurance plc, Reigate, Surrey RH2 8BL. Tel: (07372) 42424.

CRUSADER Insurance plc

Senior Manager U.K. Corporate Lending

£30,000 - £35,000 + Car and Bank Benefits City Bank

Our client is a well established City bank which has experienced dramatic growth in recent years and now wishes to strengthen the management team in its UK Corporate Lending division.

With the expected continued growth, the successful candidate must be able to show considerable experience in marketing UK corporates with success. It is also essential that the individual has received comprehensive training and practical experience in credit and inter-personal skills.

It is unlikely that the successful candidate will be aged under 35.

Salary is negotiable £30,000 - £35,000 and in addition to a company car the usual bank benefits will be provided.

Please write with details of your career to date to Clifford Grant, (Ref. FT/SM), Vine Potterton Limited, 152/153 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2DH. Please state separately any companies in which you would not be interested.

VINE POTTERTON
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This appointment will provide you with the scope to be an innovative and influential member of an able and highly motivated team.

Your successful track record is likely to reflect an analytical ability and flair enabling you to produce reliable and competitive solutions quickly under pressure. Your up-to-date knowledge of the market must be complemented by numeracy and computer literacy.

If you value excellence, service and integrity to the extent that we do you will relish the challenge of a highly professional environment which encourages and rewards achievement.

Please write providing full educational and career details to:

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THOMAS MILLER & CO.
International House, 26 Creechurch Lane, London EC3A 5BA
Tel. 01-283 4646

Senior Money Market Trader

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The Securities subsidiary of a large, prestigious American banking group is offering a unique opportunity to take a leadership role within its trading team.

Based in London (after a brief orientation programme in the U.S.) and reporting to the Managing Director, you will have a minimum of four years trading experience, a high level of expertise with fixed income/money market securities and be an experienced market maker.

You will have traded and/or managed trading some of the following: ECP, CDs (US Dollar

and Non-Dollar), Governments and Futures and are up to the challenge of further developing the team's strong position in money market instruments. The longer term view will be to leverage into Eurobond issues. Ideally you will be 28-35, familiar with the US Corporate names and of management calibre.

This chance for broadening your market expertise and for rapid career progression while being appreciated and generously compensated can only be described as rare. Please telephone or write in confidence to Jan Wolf quoting Ref: JW109.

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Initially you will assist senior colleagues in analysis of market information and in database management. Thorough understanding of all aspects of the markets will be developed through liaison with advisers and with members of Dunedin's office in Tokyo. As the role develops, you will travel throughout the Far East.

Aged mid to late 20's, a graduate or professionally qualified you will have acquired 2-3 years' relevant investment experience and be ready to sharpen your skills within a specialist team. Advancement will be to a fund management role and further prospects are extremely good.

The salary, terms and conditions for both positions are attractive. Please write enclosing a detailed CV to Peter Smolke of Cripps, Seams & Associates Limited, Personnel Management Consultants, Rutland House, 12 Rutland Square, Edinburgh, EH1 2BB. Tel: 031-228 2281.

Private Client Specialist

As a member of the team responsible for managing portfolios on behalf of private individuals and trusts, you must be capable of handling all aspects of investment and of making effective oral and written presentations to existing as well as potential clients.

Aged 30 or over, probably a graduate or professionally qualified you will be familiar with Stock Exchange procedures, and have experience of the UK Equities markets in particular. Maturity, enthusiasm and ability to work under pressure are important attributes. Excellent prospects for advancement exist within the portfolio management company.

Cripps, Seams

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A special challenge for Graduates in technical, scientific, economic and legal disciplines

Morgan Guaranty is a premier international bank established in Italy for over 20 years with offices in both Milan and Rome. Our reputation has been built on providing high quality, innovative services to clients. Our international expertise makes us a leader in the integration of the Italian economy into the global financial market place. This highly challenging and complex effort requires additional young men and women eager to move into the world of international business.

The ideal candidates are recent graduates whose motivation and adaptability have already been demonstrated by

outstanding academic and extra-curricular achievements. The successful candidate will find that his/her broad academic background is essential to tackle the challenge of working creatively in a fast-changing environment. Perfect fluency in English and immediate availability are essential.

If you are interested in a career in a fast moving business environment, with an international perspective and commensurate rewards, write today to:

Personnel Department (Ref. FEAS), Morgan Guaranty Trust Company - Corso Venezia 54 - 20121 Milano.

Morgan Guaranty Trust Company

PRIVATE CLIENT DEVELOPMENT

A Key appointment within the recently established
West End office of a leading UK stockbroker

£35,000 (neg) + benefits

Our client seeks an exceptional individual to develop its customer base among high net worth individuals located in the UK and overseas. Liaising with existing users and their advisers, you will expect to develop your present client base, expand contacts with professional intermediaries and potential clients and find ways of promoting the business.

You should possess a background in stockbroking or fund management, requisite social and business contacts and at least five years experience handling private clients. A track record in new business development is essential as is the ability to achieve results without compromising existing high standards. The appointment offers an exciting opportunity in a dynamic environment, supported by the resources of a major international bank.

For full job description write in confidence to Mark Lockett quoting ref. 623/FT showing clearly how you meet our client's requirements.

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MLR,
1 New Bond Street,
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Both men and women may apply.

A fresh start for successful business people

Hill Samuel Investment Services Limited is a leader in providing its clients with complete personal financial service. Pensions, unit trusts, investments, personal portfolio management and life assurance are just some of our areas of involvement.

We recognise that it takes a very special person to explain these services and to advise our clients on how best to manage their money successfully.

If you are aged between 25-55, self-motivated and enjoy dealing with people, that person could be you.

If you are looking for an opportunity to develop a new career, talk to Hill Samuel. North London Tel: John Stafford on 0923 29241. South London Tel: Keith Agnew on 01-686 4355 or write to J. Stafford, Hill Samuel Investment Services Limited, Star House, Clarendon Road, Watford, Herts, WD1 1LP.

HILL SAMUEL
INVESTMENT SERVICES

PROPERTY CONSULTANCY

Major international property consultancy seeks retail specialist to develop practice in London office. The following background is essential:

- Minimum 10 years relevant retail consultancy experience, with at least 5 years recent exposure outside the UK, in North American or Australian markets.
- Evidence of establishing and managing a retail research and development strategy which includes in-depth knowledge of retail and consumer market research methodology, techniques and applications.
- Consulting experience to embrace all aspects of shopping centre development, including speciality and leisure centres.
- Established credibility and a high profile in the industry, which will certainly have included articles in trade publications, relevant public speaking engagements and participation at conferences.
- Postgraduate degree, such as an M.B.A.

Generous remuneration package is available to the right candidate, who is likely to be in age group 37-47.

Please apply initially to Box A0414, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY by not later than 25th February.

Senior Construction Contract Lawyer

An opportunity has arisen for a Lawyer experienced in the drafting and negotiation of U.K. and International Construction and Project Finance contracts.

Our Commercial Property Department (dealing with institutional and overseas investors, developers and space users) generates a considerable flow of building contract work. Our Corporate Department deals with many large project financings and engineering projects, often of a high public profile, in many parts of the world.

We are looking for someone of outstanding quality and experience, personal commitment and ambition. We expect the successful candidate to have the ability to assume a key role in consolidating the continued growth of this area of our practice. The financial rewards will be substantial and the career prospects excellent.

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Linklaters & Paines,
Barrington House,
59/67 Gresham Street,
London EC2V 7JA

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Business Analyst/Raters

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Central London
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In Spring 1987 a new prestigiously backed company opens in London with an excellent service to sell a top quality credit evaluation service specifically for the Euromarkets.

They are now looking for a team of high calibre professional analysts and raters to cover the company's multi-disciplined approach to the European market. Specifically, vacancies are for Corporate Analysts both junior and senior and a senior Bank/Sovereign Analyst.

It is anticipated that successful

candidates may be frustrated with their current banking, credit insurance, chartered accountancy, or other rating agency environment and are looking for a smaller company with greater participation and potential growth.

The personal qualities necessary to fit in with our client's corporate philosophies are professionalism and pride in your work, interpersonal ease at all levels, generating fruitful and economic information. Excellent communication skills, both written and spoken, are vital and a second

European language will be highly desirable due to the international context of the work.

Career progression will be linked to company growth.

Please send full CV in confidence quoting reference MCS/3020 to:
Tracey Phillips
Executive Selection Division
Price Waterhouse
Management Consultants
1 London Bridge
London SE1 9QL

Price Waterhouse



DEPUTY EDITOR

Financial Adviser, the new weekly newspaper for intermediaries, shortly to be launched by Financial Times Business Information, seeks a Deputy Editor.

He or she must have working knowledge of the financial sector as well as having organisational and production ability. An excellent salary is available to someone who can demonstrate the potential for leadership.

Applications to:

Steve Bevan
Personnel Officer
FTBI
Greystoke Place
Fetter Lane
London EC4A 1ND



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RESEARCH-EUROPE

We are a London firm of stockbrokers, associated with Banque Bruxelles Lambert, Brussels and Banque Louis-Dreyfus, Paris.

We wish to recruit both experienced investment analysts and graduate trainees for research into European companies and stock markets. Excellent clear written English and a good working knowledge of French are essential.

Attractive remuneration packages are available.

Apply to:

N.R. Woodfield,
Williams de Broë Hill Chaplin & Company Limited
Pinners Hall, Austin Friars, London EC2P 2HS

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Whether you are already selling on-line financial information services to city institutions, or are keen to break into this exciting market, our client can offer exceptional opportunities within both the sales and support functions.

It is essential that you have an understanding of the securities markets and the greater your sales/systems experience the higher the initial rewards. An additional European language would be useful.

Remuneration is by way of highly competitive salaries plus a bonus scheme involving share participation.

To apply, please telephone or write to Brian Burgess quoting Ref: BB121 Lloyd Chapman Associates, 160 New Bond Street, London W1Y 0HR. Telephone: 01-409 1371.

OIL PRODUCTS BROKER

Major oil products brokers seek an experienced Petroleum Products Broker. Candidates should have spent at least two to three years in products trading with an oil company, trading or brokerage firm. Please apply, in confidence, with a full c.v. to:

Box A0417, Financial Times
10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

BOARD APPOINTMENT

PRESTON EXCELLENT BENEFITS & RELOCATION

Ribble Motor Services Limited is one of the leading bus and coach companies in the North West. It has a turnover of £25 million pa from the operation of some 650 buses, mini-buses and coaches on local services, countrywide express, holiday tours and other coaching operations including continental activities. It also has 20 travel agencies and provides engineering services from its comprehensively equipped central workshops.

Road Passenger Transport has entered into a period of great opportunity as a result of the Transport Act 1985 and the Company stands at the threshold of privatisation. The person appointed will contribute significantly to the Company's strategy during this exciting time.

Based in Preston, Lancashire, a pleasant town close to the picturesque Fylde coast, Lake District and moorlands of the Pennines, you will, as a Board Director report to the Managing Director and be responsible for the overall financial welfare of the organisation. You will be a well qualified accountant, with a proven record of success and possess the following qualities:

- Realistic attitude to change, unencumbered by preconceived notions.
- A self-starter with track record of contributing to the profitability of his/her employing companies.
- The ability to originate and implement innovative systems to cope with changing circumstances.
- Ability to provide leadership which by example engenders enthusiasm and an attitude of confidence in his/her staff.
- Hands on experience of microcomputers.
- Knowledge of the secretarial and legal requirements of a free-standing, private company as the person appointed will also be Company Secretary.

In return, we offer a salary of c£21,000 and benefits package, which includes BUPA, pension scheme, executive car, re-location expenses where appropriate and the pleasure of residing in pleasant surroundings.

Replies in confidence with a full curriculum vitae, including details of current earnings to Ian A E Chapman, Managing Director, Ribble Motor Services Limited, Frenchwood Avenue, PRESTON, Lancashire, PR1 4LU.



RIBBLE

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MORGAN STANLEY
ASSET MANAGEMENT

PORTFOLIO ADMINISTRATOR

AGE 22-30 YEARS

Morgan Stanley requires a further Administrator to join an existing team supervising the administrative aspects of the firm's global investment work.

Acting as liaison between clients and back office functions, the successful applicant will take responsibility for a group of investment accounts and will be exposed to the settlement, valuation and accounting needs of clients throughout the world, in the equity, fixed income and foreign exchange markets.

A minimum of two years' administration experience in a leading investment house is essential.

This is an exceptional opportunity offering both immediate responsibility and excellent career potential within one of the world's leading investment services firms.

The remuneration will be attractive to the right candidate.

Applications in writing with full cv to:

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DEALERS
to £30,000

Our client, a major international bank, runs a very active and successful dealing activity. It has recently increased its dealing room complement and is expanding its range of treasury instruments. As a result, opportunities now exist on the Spot and Forward desks for dealers with experience from an active dealing room. Candidates (aged up to 33) should have at least two years' dealing experience of major currencies. Career prospects are excellent in an expanding environment.

CORPORATE
DEALER
to £30,000

This is an outstanding opportunity for an ambitious Corporate Dealer to join a highly professional team within one of London's largest trading rooms. The position will suit an individual, who has at least two years' experience as a trader or technical analyst, with a broad knowledge of treasury products. The ideal candidate will be servicing a top class client base with particular emphasis on the major, high volume UK corporates.

DEPOSITS
DEALER
c£25,000

A large, highly respected bank has undertaken an exciting phase of growth, increasing its FX and money market trading capacity. In line with this an experienced Deposits Dealer is required to assist in further developing the bank's traditional money market activities. The ideal candidate will have upwards of two years experience of trading multi-currency deposits and be ambitious to progress in a wider environment.

Please telephone Joanna Davies or Jonathan Holmes on 01-606 1706

Anderson, Squires Ltd
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127 Cheapside, London EC2V 6BU

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URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS

Chief Executives

c£36,000 + car

The Government intend to establish four Urban Development Corporations, in the Black Country, Teesside, Trafford Park and Tyne & Wear. Chief Executives are sought for each of these UDCs.

The Chief Executive will be responsible to the Chairman and Board of the UDC.

The key task of the UDC is to invest public money to attract private sector investment. The Chief Executive will administer a complex spending programme and will need to negotiate with developers, financial institutions, and other private sector organisations.

The Chief Executive will have to work closely both with Central Government officials and with local authorities in the area concerned, who may act as agents for the UDC in providing services.

Those wishing to nominate candidates for the post, or candidates themselves, are invited to apply for further information to John Smith, Director Public Appointments, ref B. 57023.

MSL
Public Appointments

MSL International (UK) Limited
52 Grosvenor Gardens,
London SW1W 0AW

Opportunities in Relationship Management/Treasury

Citibank is one of the world's largest and most successful financial institutions. Due to continued expansion we now have the following vacancies.

Relationship Management – World Corporate Group

The World Corporate Group has responsibility for Citibank's prestigious multinational customer base throughout the world. We are seeking a Relationship Manager to join our institutional team which markets primarily to the U.K. subsidiaries of foreign multinational corporations. This customer base is of considerable importance to Citibank in London and successful management of these relationships is key to Citibank's strategy of providing a premium service. The institutional team is part of a global network of relationship managers marketing a wide range of products and services, both traditional and innovative, to these corporations.

Applicants should have a minimum of five years' experience as a relationship manager with a leading financial institution. Specific skill requirements are:

- the ability to work well in a team
- track record of building long term customer relationships
- deal orientation
- sound credit skills
- excellent interpersonal skills

Apply to Alison Emery, Group Personnel Officer.

Relationship Managers – Midlands and North

Through our regional office network, we provide merchant banking and commercial bank services, personalised to a selected base of private and public companies.

Our offices in the Midlands and North are amongst the longest established and most active in our regional base, with their own Treasury dealing rooms capable of handling the most complex customer requirements. The emphasis is on leveraged acquisitions, buyouts and other high value, complex products, providing a stimulating

environment for experienced and pro-active banking professionals.

We envisage that the Relationship Managers will have at least 3 years' account management experience covering the full range of financial issues. You'll relish the independence and responsibility this role offers in developing revenues and handling several major relationships, but will also place a high value on the team effort and necessary for good client relationships.

Apply to Barbara Horsfall, Group Personnel Officer.

Treasury Consultancy

We are seeking a Senior Consultant and Junior Treasury Officers to join our Consulting and Treasury Products teams.

Based in London, the successful candidates will have responsibility for marketing and delivering the Bank's cash, exposure and treasury consulting services to corporate customers throughout Europe, Middle East and Africa. This will involve all aspects of treasury management including analysis, establishment of offshore vehicles, settlement systems and advising corporations on cash and exposure management.

Candidates should have a banking and/or professional accountancy background, fluency in a European language, experience in financial consulting techniques and, for the Senior

Consultant position, management expertise in leading consulting teams.

Apply to Sally Gould, Personnel Officer.

For all positions we offer a highly competitive salary and a full range of banking benefits.

Please send your full CV to Citibank NA, Citibank House, 336 Strand, London WC2R 2EZ, marked for the attention of the appropriate individual.

CITIBANK

Citibank is an equal opportunity employer

Senior Pensions Consultant

London

to £25,000 + Bonus + Car + Benefits

The Client: An established, independent market leader in self-administered pension arrangements offering a range of related fund management, investment advice and employee benefit services.

The Job: To develop new self-administered pensions business and promote the additional services of the Company through firms of Chartered Accountants and other relevant professional intermediaries.

The Candidate: Ideally aged 27-40, you will have gained a broad training in the life and pensions industry before graduating to a more professional sales orientated role, preferably with an independent broker. A track record of marketing financial services to Accountants would be distinctly beneficial.

The Rewards: An extremely competitive remuneration package is offered, together with substantial bonus potential for a highly motivated individual. This is a unique opportunity to join a small, professional team within a diverse financial services organisation, offering first-class career potential.

Interested applicants should contact Ian Comyns or Neil Nokes on 01-404 5751 or write to them enclosing a comprehensive curriculum vitae at Michael Page City, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH. Strict confidentiality is assured.

MP

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Banking/Financial Services Experience Business Development Manager

Midlands

to £20,000 + car + benefits

The Company: A highly respected and experienced leader in the provision of financial services to corporate clients throughout the UK. Associated with a major Financial Institution, its exceptional record and growth rate is due to the emphasis placed on providing the highest quality of professional service.

The Position: To play a vital role in the development of new business based in the Birmingham office but responsible for providing services to clients throughout a wide area of the Midlands.

The Candidate: Will be self motivated and assured with a professional approach. Aged 28-40 with experience within banking, financial services or related areas. A sound business awareness and good negotiating skills are essential to enable effective evaluation of business proposals.

The Prospects: The company can demonstrate excellent career prospects for individuals with the qualities to succeed within a fast moving commercial environment.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. Please write, enclosing career details and quoting reference AHF100 to Financial Management Selection, 21 Cork Street, London W1X 1HB.

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Major U.S. investment bank wishes to employ a London-based individual for the above position.

Applications should be sent to Box No. A0407,
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scope to head up a Branch Office in the medium term

CJA

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NZ\$60,000 - NZ\$75,000

WELLINGTON - NEW ZEALAND

LEADING INTERNATIONAL FIRM OF CONSULTING ACTUARIES

This appointment is open to recently qualified Actuaries, aged 28-40 who are likely to have acquired experience either in consulting or in a life office, preferably, but not essentially in the pensions field. The successful candidate will be responsible for servicing up to 50 pensions clients, providing advice on technical aspects, benefits design and the provision of general actuarial advice etc. The ability to work efficiently in a small actuarial team and explain actuarial matters in lay terms is important. A full continuation training will be provided where necessary. Initial salary negotiable, NZ\$60,000 - NZ\$75,000 plus housing mortgage, plus car, non contributory pension, free life assurance, free medical, relocation expenses. Applications in strict confidence under reference RCA 4668/FT, to the Managing Director: CJA.

An opportunity to make a career in a healthy climate in Australia.
Emphasis is to head up technical operations in the Head Office or a Branch Office in 12-18 months

CJA

ASSISTANT ACTUARY CORPORATE FINANCE

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

A\$42,000 - A\$55,000

LEADING AUSTRALIAN LIFE & GENERAL INSURANCE OFFICE, ASSETS C.£8 BILLION

We invite applications from recently qualified Actuaries, aged 26-35. Responsibilities will cover the exploring, developing and testing of current concepts, as they emerge, the development of computer modelling and taking a lead role in the forefront of the company's financial management. *Ref: AACF4470/FT.

SUPERANNUATION ACTUARIES

A\$45,000 - A\$50,000

SYDNEY & WELLINGTON

Open to recently qualified Actuaries or those expecting to qualify in 1988. To work on pension plan designs, advice on funding levels, contribution rates and direct servicing between 75 and 200 schemes as technical adviser in one of the above locations. The ability to communicate lucidly and warrant further promotion to head-up a branch's actuarial activities within 18 months is important. *Ref: SA4471/FT. Full familiarisation training will be provided, salaries negotiable within above brackets, plus car, mortgage subsidy, full relocation expenses, non-contributory pension, free life assurance. **A number of other openings exist for qualified Actuaries in life, underwriting and general operations product development and sales for those who desire a career in Australia. *Ref: AA472/FT. Applications in strict confidence under the appropriate reference to the Managing Director: CJA.

35 NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON EC2M 1NH. TELEPHONE: 01-588 3588 OR 01-588 3576. TELEX: 887374. FAX: 01-256 8501.

ORGANISATIONS REQUIRING ASSISTANCE ON RECRUITMENT - PLEASE TELEPHONE 01-620 7539

Private Banking -Business Development

Major Swiss bank

London base

If you have an outstanding track record in new business development in international private banking, this is an opportunity which should not be overlooked.

This top Swiss bank is strongly committed to the further growth of its business in international private banking. Your key activity will be the acquisition of new high-net-worth clients and frequent international travel will be involved. Once you have attracted a client to the bank, an investment manager will take responsibility for running the account. Aged 30-45, you should have confidence in

your ability to develop new business in a cosmopolitan environment. In return, this prestigious bank offers a position with high personal status and visibility, and an attractive financial package will be negotiated.

I will be pleased to receive telephone enquiries at the number given below and these will be treated in strict confidence.

Alternatively, please send a brief cv to Gary Gibbons, Financial Institutions Group, quoting Ref: 1312/GRG/FT. Preliminary discussions can take place at PA offices around the world.

PA

PA Personnel Services

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Hyde Park House, 60a Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LE.
Tel: 01-235 6800 Telex: 27874

Investment Manager United States

Globe Investment Trust with gross assets of £1bn wishes to recruit another fund manager to its American desk. As the successful candidate, you will be working closely with the current sole manager, after a period of induction, it is envisaged that you will assume joint responsibility for the day to day management of the portfolio, which is currently \$130m. You will form part of a small team of 10 professionals managing the assets of the company, but will be expected to have specialist knowledge of the US which will be augmented by regular business travel.

You will probably be in your mid to late twenties, and have gained directly related experience for at least 2 years in a financial institution or stockbrokers' office.

Starting salary will be negotiable depending on experience and will be part of an attractive financial package.

Please write in confidence with full curriculum vitae to: Mr J P Craze, Secretary, Globe Investment Trust P.L.C., Electra House, Temple Place, London, WC2R 3HP.



Globe Investment Trust P.L.C.

HEAD OF EUROBOND SALES

This leading International Merchant Bank is seeking a high-calibre sales person to lead a young and dynamic team of seven. In their 20s the ideal candidate will have from three to five years' experience in bond sales covering European and Middle Eastern clients. A highly-competitive salary will be offered.

EUROBOND SALES

To join a highly-motivated and successful sales team, bond sales personnel, with at least six months' experience, are required by this major International Merchant Bank. Candidates should have experience in either straight or FRN and preferably with a knowledge of a European language.

BOND SETTLEMENTS MANAGER

To lead a team of 24 in the settlements department of this well-established Merchant Bank an experienced candidate is sought with at least five years' experience in all settlement procedures as well as in supervision.

BOND SETTLEMENT SUPERVISOR

Newly-established Merchant Bank is seeking a supervisor for its bond settlement section. The suitable candidate should have around three years' settlement experience and be able to supervise a team of two.

Interested candidates should contact:

Mark Hawking

on 01-236 8192

JAC RECRUITMENT

JAC

CORPORATE FINANCE EXECUTIVE MAJOR WALL STREET INVESTMENT BANK

This position offers a rare opportunity for a young (22-26), numerate, hard-working graduate with initiative to join an expanding corporate finance team in one of the major Wall Street Investment Banks. Banking or other financial experience would be an advantage.

The position involves supporting the corporate finance team and provides an opportunity for the successful candidate to develop his/her analytical, research and presentation skills in a dynamic environment. The corporate finance team focuses principally on merger and acquisition and equity-related transactions so client contact is an important feature of the job.

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SECTION II - COMPANIES AND MARKETS

FINANCIAL TIMES

Wednesday February 18 1987

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Fermenta loans hit Swedish bank

By Kevin Done in Stockholm

GÖTABANKEN, Sweden's fourth largest publicly-quoted bank, has been forced to make heavy provisions against doubtful loans to Mr. Rezaei El-Sayed and Fermenta, the Swedish chemicals and antibiotics group which has been beset by scandals. The provisions have bitten deep into the bank's profits for 1986.

The bank said yesterday that group operating profits rose last year by only 26.7 per cent to SKr 687m (\$106m) compared with the jump of 97 per cent in operating profits reported after the first eight months.

The Swedish banking sector overall enjoyed record profits last year, but two leading banks, Göteborgs and Nordbanken, have failed to keep pace because of their exposure to Fermenta and in particular to Mr. El-Sayed, the now discredited former majority shareholder and chief executive of Fermenta.

Götabanken said yesterday that it had made a provision of SKr 250m against risks involved in loans to Fermenta and Mr. El-Sayed.

The bank is pursuing Mr. El-Sayed through the Swedish courts for repayment of loans totalling SKr 570m, of which SKr 250m has been guaranteed by Volvo.

Separately, Göteborgs agreed earlier this month to take part in the financial rescue of Fermenta by pumping in part of the SKr 110m in new loans provided by a consortium of four banks to help keep the group afloat.

So far the bank has not had to realise any losses on the loans to Mr. El-Sayed and Fermenta, and it said yesterday that the special bad debt provision should cover all potential losses.

Götabanken reported a strong development in 1986

BUOYANT CAR GROUP'S RESULTS AHEAD OF EXPECTATIONS

Ford overtakes GM with \$3bn earnings

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY IN NEW YORK

FORD MOTOR Company's profits jumped 29 per cent to \$3.3bn in 1986, overtaking the earnings of General Motors for the first time since 1924. The results slightly exceeded even the buoyant expectations of stock market analysts, and Ford's shares jumped 2 1/2% to \$78 1/4 in early trading on Wall Street yesterday.

Ford's higher profits, which were equivalent to \$12.32 a share compared with the \$9.99 earned in 1985, came as a marked contrast to the weaker earnings declared earlier this month not only by GM but also by Chrysler.

They were based on a 6 per cent increase in worldwide sales volumes to 5.98m units and turnover of \$62.7bn, up 19 per cent on the year before.

GM and Chrysler both showed

BIG THREE CAR MANUFACTURERS				
Company	1986 Revenue \$m	% Change	1986 Net Income \$m	% Change
GM	102.8	+7	2,824.0	-28
Ford	62.7	+19	3,300.0	+29
Chrysler	22.56	+6	1,403.6	+16

revenue growth of around 6 per cent last year and GM suffered an 8 per cent decline in unit sales.

Ford's fourth-quarter income was \$785m, or \$2.99 a share, against \$728m, or \$2.65, the year before.

The key to Ford's good performance lay in its successful model launches both in the US and Europe and in the closer integration of the US and international operations.

In the US, the Taurus and Sable models, based on the European Si-

erra, have turned into runaway winners, with sales of 382,000 in the first year of full production.

Taurus became the best-selling car line in the US in the fourth quarter, Ford said.

Largely because of these models and Ford's continuing leadership in the small trucks market, the company's US operations earned \$2.46bn in 1986, up 28 per cent on the year before.

In Europe, Ford's sales hit a re-

cord 1.5m units, generating net earnings of \$558m, 71 per cent up on 1985.

Ford attributed the rise in European earnings to operating cost efficiencies and the first full year of availability of the Scorpio model, which was named European Car of the Year in 1986.

The Scorpio will be introduced in the US market this spring, Ford said.

Cost cuts throughout Ford's worldwide operations had amounted to \$5bn since 1980 and these would enable the company to remain profitable, even in the event of a cyclical downturn as severe as the one in the early 1980s, Ford said.

Ford's non-manufacturing operations also put in a strong performance, with net income at Ford Mo-

tor Credit Company up 35 per cent to \$611m and First Nationwide Financial, the company's savings and loan subsidiary, registering earnings of \$102m in its first full year of operations.

Overall, US car production in 1986 dropped to fewer than 8m units - 4.4 per cent down on the previous year, according to industry figures.

The lower output was due to reduced production at GM, which laid off thousands of workers amid declining sales and a drop in its share of the US market. However, Ford and Chrysler increased output, according to the figures, and despite the lower output generally the industry had record sales of about 16m cars and trucks, beating the 1985 record of 15.7m.

Industrial markets lift AECEI sales

BY OUR JOHANNESBURG CORRESPONDENT

AECEI, South Africa's largest diversified chemicals group, recorded substantial increases in sales volumes in 1986 in sectors of its business serving industrial markets.

The growth, however, was not matched in divisions more directly associated with consumer demand. Turnover increased to R2,828m (\$1.35bn) from R2,944m and the pre-tax profit was R263m against R162m.

Mr Mike Sander, managing director, said demand for explosives and industrial chemicals was particularly strong. Local sales of chlor-alkali plastics and synthetic fibres had improved because exchange rate movements squeezed foreign suppliers out of the South African market.

Local plastics and fibre converters found it more attractive to buy from AECEI.

Paradoxically, AECEI was not able to take any great advantage of favourable exchange rates to increase exports because greater domestic sales left lesser volumes for export.

AECEI is mainly concerned with its domestic market and uses exports to absorb surplus production.

Local demand for fertiliser remains weak and AECEI's plants are unlikely to improve on their 60 per cent capacity operations this year.

Demand declined in 1986 and is not expected to improve this year. In January AECEI acquired the fertiliser factory of the troubled Triomf company.

In contrast, the chlor-alkali division is operating at full capacity and plans to expand caustic soda and chlorine production to satisfy domestic demand.

Net earnings increased to 175 cents a share from 114 cents

Falling rates boost Svenska

By Sara Webb in Stockholm

SVENSKA HANDELSBANKEN, Sweden's second-largest commercial bank, raised group operating profits by 76 per cent, helped mainly by falling interest rates.

The preliminary report showed that operating profits rose to SKr 3.47bn (\$588m) in 1986, compared with SKr 1.97bn the previous year.

The return on equity after tax rose 29.4 per cent, compared with 18.8 per cent in 1985. Svenska Handelsbanken shows the highest profitability of the commercial banks to have reported their results so far, including Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken, the leading commercial bank. The board proposes increasing the dividend by 23 per cent to SKr 12.0.

Swedish banks performed particularly well in 1986, largely because of falling interest rates. The average level of the discount rate was 2 per cent lower in 1986 than in 1985,

Nabisco may spin off tobacco unit

BY JAMES BUCHAN IN NEW YORK

RJR NABISCO, the US consumer products company, is considering spinning off its large and highly profitable tobacco operations. It is the latest move in a rapid transformation of the company.

Mr Ross Johnson, the food industry executive who took over as chairman of the combined tobacco and food group in January, said the company was "studying" spinning off its tobacco business to a master limited partnership.

"We're looking at it. It's very complex," Mr Johnson told a group of securities analysts in Florida on Monday.

Mr Johnson's statement, together with an estimate of 20 per cent earnings per share growth this year, pushed RJR Nabisco's share price up 3 1/4% to \$63 1/4 in early trading yesterday.

It has risen by about 25 per cent

so far this year amid growing discussion in Wall Street that the diversified tobacco groups such as RJR Nabisco and Philip Morris might seek to insulate themselves from a declining and potentially problematic market.

RJR Nabisco's tobacco operations were about twice as profitable as the food business last year, with operating profits of \$1.7bn on revenues of \$5.9bn.

But public bans on smoking are proliferating and the industry has had to defend - so far successfully - a deluge of liability claims by victims of lung cancer or their families.

Analysts say that a master limited partnership would give shareholders direct access to the cash from the tobacco business and could protect the main company from some liability problems.

Wendy's suffers loss on costs of restructuring

BY RODERICK ORAM IN NEW YORK

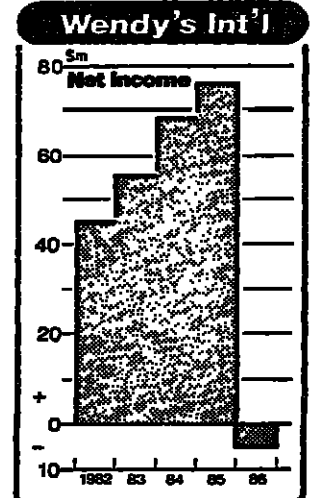
WENDY'S International, the third largest fast-food chain in the US, plunged into loss last year because of the high costs of a restructuring programme designed to refocus the company on its original hamburger business. Fourth-quarter profits, which were unaffected by the changes, fell steeply.

The Ohio-based company reported a loss for the year ended December 31 of \$4.9m, or 5 cents a share, which included the after-tax restructuring charge of \$51.8m, or 54 cents. Year-earlier net profit was \$78.2m, or 82 cents. Revenues edged up to \$1.14bn from \$1.13bn in 1985.

Fourth-quarter net profits fell to \$1.8m, or 2 cents, in the three months to December 31, from \$18.6m, or 20 cents, a year earlier. Revenues fell to \$271.4m from \$295.4m.

Some of Wendy's troubles stemmed from its breakfast menu which was difficult and slow to prepare and not well received by customers. The heavy concentration of advertising on breakfasts caused a fall in lunch and dinner sales.

As a key element of its reorientation, Wendy's introduced the Big Classic hamburger last autumn which has subsequently accounted for an average of 20 per cent of sales.



Average sales for company-owned restaurants fell to \$783,000 last year from \$854,000 a year earlier, but they stabilised in the fourth quarter at \$201,000 against \$204,000.

Sales for franchised restaurants fell in the year to \$737,000 from \$845,000 and in the last quarter to \$185,000 from \$202,000.

Total sales at company-owned and franchised restaurants slipped to \$2.75bn from \$2.89bn in the year.

Impala profits ahead

BY JIM JONES IN JOHANNESBURG

IMPALA PLATINUM, South Africa's second largest platinum producer, benefited from higher dollar-denominated precious metals prices and greater sales volumes in the six months to December, with revenue rising to R357.2m (\$287.5m) from R432.0m.

Pre-tax profits increased to R229.4m from R185.9m. Impala, which is managed by the mining house Gencor, does not disclose details of its sales of platinum group metals (PGM), gold and by-product base metals.

However, platinum sales are believed to be about 900,000 ounces a year.

Capital expenditure increased to R72.4m from R55.3m.

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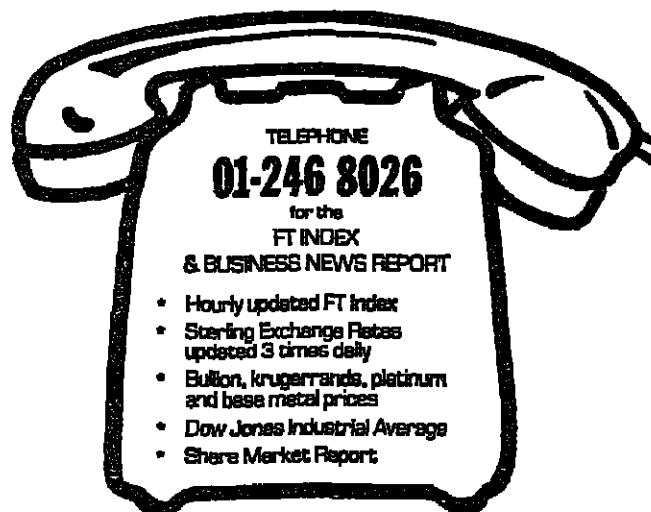
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Floating Rate Notes 1997

In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that, for the three months period, 16th February, 1987 to 18th May, 1987, the Notes will bear interest at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum. Coupon No. 7 will therefore be payable on 18th May, 1987 at £1,371.23 per coupon from Notes of £50,000 nominal and £137.12 per coupon from Notes of £5,000 nominal.

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INTL. COMPANIES and FINANCE

Wong Sulong on the reorganisation of Multi-Purpose Holdings
Dr Ling cuts the knot for MPH

THE REORGANISATION of Multi-Purpose Holdings (MPH) with the appointment of a respected professional team at its helm—is seen as giving a new lease of life not only to the diversified Chinese investment group, but also to the Malaysian Chinese Association, the largest Chinese political party, which controls it.

By breaking with the old MPH board, Dr Ling Liong Sait, the 45-year-old MCA president, has cut the knot that has been strangling both the party and its investment arm.

The MCA is a partner in the Malay-dominated Malaysian coalition government, and has four members in the Cabinet, including Dr Ling. The MPH revamp represents a political as well as a corporate coup for him.

He succeeded in getting Mr Robert Kuok, Hong Kong's most prominent Chinese businessman in South East Asia, to join the new MPH board.

He appealed to them to help the 5m-strong Malaysian Chinese community, which had been demoralised by a series of financial and political reverses during the past two years.

Dr Ling pledged that the MCA would stay out of MPH unless in circumstances where

political support might be necessary.

Mr Kuok has extensive business interests in the Pacific Basin region and is known as the Sugar King of Asia. Tan Sri Lee is head of Kuala Lumpur Kepong, Malaysia's largest plantation group.

Mr Kuok, as the new MPH chairman, has appointed Mr Oh Bak Kim, a business associate, to be its managing director. It was a calculated risk for Dr Ling to break with Datuk Lee San Choon, the departing MPH executive chairman, and his political lieutenants on the old MPH board. Datuk Lee, a former MCA president, was instrumental in the nomination of Dr Ling as the running mate to Mr Tan Koon Swan in the party elections in November 1985.

Chinese interests

When Mr Tan was jailed for two years by the Singapore authorities last August for his role in the collapse of Pan Electric Industries, Dr Ling took over the party's leadership.

Although Datuk Lee and his lieutenants are out of MPH, they are still in control of the newly introduced 220/200 KSM, which holds 41 per cent of the 23 deposit-taking co-operatives placed under receivership last month, after

the discovery of a financial scandal. Many MCA stalwarts are directors of these co-ops.

RSM has more than 160,000 members, most of whom also belong to the MCA. Datuk Lee can therefore make life difficult for Dr Ling, who will seek endorsement as MCA President in the party's elections in June.

MPH was founded by the MCA President in the party's elections in June.

MPH was founded by the MCA in 1975 as a corporate vehicle to support Chinese interests at a time when the Government was actively buying companies to fulfil its New Economic Policy objective of giving 30 per cent of the corporate wealth to the Malays.

MPH expanded very rapidly, but made several costly mistakes in recent years, particularly in the takeover of Promptship, a Hong Kong-based shipping company, and the Malaysian-Singapore activities of Guthrie Trading.

In 1985, the latest year for which figures are available, the group suffered a net loss of 191m ringgit (US\$75m).

News of the MPH reorganisation was greeted enthusiastically by investors in both Malaysia and Singapore where the company is quoted.

In two days of active trading, its shares were pushed up from 67 cents to 1.22 ringgit. For

the first time in nearly two years, it is above its one ringgit par value.

It is quite remarkable that two names could make such a big difference," says one investment analyst, in reference to Mr Kuok and Tan Sri Lee.

"The market reaction shows public confidence in MPH's future directions, now that it is being run by professionalists. It also shows that politically-supported businesses are not necessarily good business," says a banker.

Political turbulence

Indeed the 46,000 MPH shareholders who own its 750m shares have suffered a lot. Everytime there is political turbulence, its share price plunges.

The MPH reorganisation highlights the group's strong underlying assets. It controls Dunlop Estates, with 76,000 acres of plantations; Bandar Raya Developments, a large property company; and Malaysian French Bank as well as lucrative lotteries.

Most of its investment in Promptship has been written off so the group is likely to report a much smaller loss for 1986. The shipping operations are to be sold off if a suitable offer is made.

Big restructuring planned for Genting

BY WONG SULONG IN KUALA LUMPUR

GENTING, the Malaysian casino, plantation and property group, has announced a big restructuring scheme which would allow the controlling Lim family to have a direct control of its international casino operations.

It would also allow the Lim family, one of the wealthiest in Malaysia, to get its long-sought after quotation on the Hong Kong stock exchange.

The restructuring is seen as a move to reap capital gains from Genting's image in Hong Kong, as well as to allow Genting shareholders, particularly the

Lim family, to be less dependent on the Malaysian company whose future occasionally comes under threat from Muslim fundamentalists demanding the cancellation of its casino licence.

Under the scheme, Genting will distribute 280m of the 270m shares in Genting International, its wholly-owned subsidiary, to shareholders in the ratio of one-for-one.

Genting would then apply for a Hong Kong listing and would make a public issue of 20m new shares to Hong Kong residents.

Following the flotation, Genting would retain 13.6 per cent and the Lim family, which owns about 40 per cent of Genting, would end up with a direct ownership of 32 per cent of Genting International.

The unit holds 42 per cent in Burswood Property Trust, which owns and operates the Casino-hotel complex in Perth, Western Australia. It also has management and consultancy contracts with casinos in Adelaide, South Australia and The Bahamas.

Genting tried to get a public listing in Hong Kong in the

early 1980s, but was refused permission by the Malaysian authorities for fear it could be a conduit for speculative funds.

Price Waterhouse, the accounting firm, has valued Genting International's net tangible assets at 190m ringgit (US\$75m) at December 1986, giving a value of 82 cents per share of the parent.

Its valuation may be subject to revaluation by the Malaysian Inland Revenue Department for tax purposes, and will not have any effect on the number of shares proposed under the scheme.

Toa Nenryo profits up by 61% despite lower sales

BY YOKO SHIBATA IN TOKYO

TOA NENRYO, the Japanese oil refiner owned a quarter each by Exxon and Mobiloil, has reported a 61 per cent jump in pre-tax profits last year to a record ¥91.43bn (US\$54m), despite a 42.7 per cent fall in sales to ¥576.79bn.

The buoyant earnings were attributed to falling crude oil prices, windfall foreign exchange profits from the yen's rise, and a large surplus on fund management.

Net profits were up 44 per cent to ¥36.82bn. Toa Nenryo will pay an annual dividend of ¥26 per share, a ¥5 increase which consists of a ¥2.5 com-

memorative payment to mark the expansion of its research institute and the remaining as an extraordinary dividend.

Volume sales showed a marginal 0.8 per cent increase to 19.24m kilolitres.

For the current year, the company expects pre-tax profits to fall to around ¥90bn to ¥70bn, on sales of some ¥570bn. It justified the conservative forecast by saying the oil products market remains uncertain, crude oil prices are bouncing back and relative stability in the yen-dollar exchange rate are likely to produce little exchange profits.

Nippondenso suffers first earnings fall in six years

BY OUR TOKYO STAFF

NIPPONDENSO, Japan's largest car component maker and a member of the Toyota group, yesterday reported pre-tax profits of ¥67.08bn (US\$3.9m) for last year, a decline of 27 per cent and the first earnings fall in six years.

The company attributed its poor showing to a ¥35bn foreign exchange loss resulting from the yen's appreciation, as well as lower profits accruing from the investment of surplus funds because of falling interest rates. The company was under pressure from car makers including Toyota to reduce selling prices, which also con-

tributed to the erosion of earnings. Net profits were down 31 per cent to ¥28.73bn, on a 6 per cent rise in sales to ¥964.76bn. The annual dividend per share is unchanged at ¥13.

During the year, sales of electronic fuel injection equipment shot up 23.3 per cent and those of other electronic components and air conditioners advanced by 4.3 per cent and 3.3 per cent respectively.

For the current year, Nippondenso projects pre-tax profits of ¥68bn, up 1.5 per cent, on turnover touching ¥1,000bn, a rise of 4 per cent.

INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTS

£27.6m Saudi power station plant

ASEA SWITCHGEAR and ASEA TRANSFORMERS, two companies in the power transmission group of Asea, Sweden, have received an order for a 380 kV gas-insulated substation (GIS) from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The value of the contract is about SKr 275m (£27.6m).

Saudi Consolidated Electric Co for the Central Region (SECRC-Central), Riyadh, has awarded the contract to ASEA for the 380 kV substation project. The contract covers the design and construction of the substation building, manufacture and delivery of 380 kV and 132 kV gas-insulated switchgear, 380/132 kV, 350 MVA transformers, four 80 MVA shunt reactors, relay and control equipment, as well as the erection and commissioning.

To be located south-east of Riyadh, the 380 kV substation includes a total of 13 380 kV and nine 132 kV circuit-breakers. Scheduled to enter service at the end of 1988, the substation is the last link in the 380 kV transmission system from Dammam to the Riyadh area and is an important part of the development of the Kingdom's power transmission system.

Toronto Hydro has awarded a contract to ASEA TRANSMISSION for the supply of a computer-based Sindac system for the control and supervision of power distribution in the city of Toronto. The value of the order is about SKr 50m (£5m). The system will enter operation during the first half of 1990.

SEMOV - CARVES, of Cheside Hulme, Stockport (a Simon Engineering company), has been awarded two contracts. The first, worth £4m, was awarded by Kincardine (a Bulgarian foreign trade organisation). It is for the design and supply of a plant to produce oleum by the regeneration of spent sulphuric acid. The plant will be constructed at Smiladovo, Bulgaria, and completion is due by mid-1989.

The second contract, worth a total of £8m, was awarded by Polyolefins Industries (PIL) of Bombay, India, for the project management, re-engineering, dismantling, shipment and re-erection of an ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer plant. Currently located at ICI Holland's Rozenburg site, the

plant will be transferred to PIL's site at Thane, near Bombay. Local engineering, procurement and construction services will be provided by Uhde India.

The US subsidiary of Ferranti Computer Systems has ordered computers worth more than US\$20m (£13.1m) from UNISYS CORPORATION. The order is for a new 2200/200 midframe and several 1100/90 large mainframe systems. The 2200/200 midframe will be used for energy management by the City of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Other computers in the order will be used on further energy management projects for which Ferranti has contracts. The system includes two 1100/91s, one 1100/92, one 1100/92SV, and an 1100/72 for software development.

The Hong Kong-based Modern Terminals has placed a £4m contract for the supply of container handling cranes with DAVY MORRIS of Loughborough (part of Davy Corporation). MTL claim that they will be the first British designed and manufactured container cranes in the Far East. Davy's contract is for the supply and installation of three 40 tonne rubber-tyred container handling gantries and one 40 tonne capacity ship-to-shore container crane.

Two British companies have won valuable contracts in Indonesia, thanks to a loan agreement negotiated by the Government last summer. Steelmaker MABEY AND JOHNSON of Twyford has been awarded a £10.2m contract for Bailey bridging from the Indonesian Ministry of Public Works.

PHAROS MARINE, of Brentford, has won an order to supply lighthouses, beacons and buoys worth £10.8m to the Ministry of Sea Communications. It will also train Indonesian personnel to use and maintain the equipment. Both companies have

been assisted financially by Standard Chartered Merchant Bank and Barclays Bank respectively. Mabe and Johnson and Pharos Marine are the first two firms to benefit from the UK/Indonesia concession loan arrangement signed in July. Under this agreement, preferential long term loans are available to Indonesia. The loans will support UK contracts for exports against identified projects to a value of some £140m over the next three years.

Ireland

£50,000,000

Floating Rate Notes 1993

In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that the rate of interest for the three months period 16th February, 1987 to 18th May, 1987 has been fixed at 11¼ per cent per annum. Coupon No. 14 will therefore be payable at £697.30 per coupon from 18th May, 1987.

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INTL. COMPANIES and FINANCE

Charges dampen Abitibi at year-end

By Bernard Simon in Toronto

ABITIBI-PRICE, the Canadian newsprint and paper producer, has reported 1986 earnings dampened by stiff competition and inventory write-downs.

Abitibi's net earnings rose to C\$110.1m (US\$83.8m) or C\$1.50 a share, last year from C\$100.2m, or C\$1.42 a share, in 1985.

However, the latest figure is before extraordinary charges of C\$2.8m, and includes a C\$17m gain from the adoption of new Canadian pension cost accounting standards.

Sales increased from C\$2.59bn to C\$2.78bn, and operating profit from C\$204m to C\$245.7m. Net fourth-quarter earnings slipped from C\$28.3m to C\$29.8m.

Mr Bernd Koken, president, said that narrower margins largely offset the benefits of cost reductions, upgraded product mix and productivity improvements. However, he said that 1986 ended on a strong note with a firming in the newsprint market, which he expects to continue this year.

Valeo plans to cut workforce

By David Housego in Paris

VALEO, France's leading car components group, is cutting the workforce of its parent company by 30% as the first part of a series of cost-cutting measures.

This further restructuring bears the mark of Mr Noel Goutard, chairman, who took over the running of the group in January as the nominee of Mr Carlo De Benedetti, the Italian industrialist.

Mr De Benedetti obtained management control of Valeo and a 19 per cent stake in the group last year.

The workforce cuts will fall on the headquarters staff and the company's interests, brake equipment and radiators interests employing a total of 7,200 people.

Himont sell-off set to raise over \$350m

BY ALAN FRIEDMAN IN MILAN

ITALY'S Montedison and Hercules of the US are expected to realise proceeds of between \$350m and \$400m from the flotation of 20 per cent of the equity of Himont, the joint-venture polypropylene company.

The New York share issue will leave Montedison and Hercules each with 40 per cent of Himont shares.

Himont, formed in 1983 on a 50-50 basis by the US and Italian chemical companies, is the world's largest producer of polypropylene with around a fifth of the global market.

Last year the company achieved net income of \$97m on around \$1bn of sales.

The Himont share offer on the New York stock exchange and in London saw the issue last week of

12.5m shares at \$28 each. Of this some 10.25m shares were offered in the US by a syndicate led by Wertheim Schroeder, First Boston and Goldman Sachs.

Remaining 2.25m Himont Shares, equal to 10 per cent of the offer, were being sold in London by Wertheim, Credit Suisse First Boston and Goldman Sachs International.

The US syndicate had the right to issue an additional 1.875m Himont shares, which would have increased the proceeds from \$350m to \$402.5m. But Montedison said yesterday in Milan that it could not comment on whether this option had been exercised.

The issue price of \$28 a share would give Himont a market capitalisation of between \$1.75bn and \$1.8bn.

Zanussi returns to the black

By Our Milan Correspondent

ZANUSSI, the leading Italian home appliance maker controlled by Electrolux of Sweden, emerged from five years of losses in 1986 to achieve a group net profit of more than L300m (\$53m). The Pordenone-based white goods manufacturer lost L32.4bn in 1985 and suffered a L125.9m deficit the year before.

Under the chairmanship of Mr Gianmario Rossignolo, installed in late 1984 by Electrolux, the company has been undergoing large-scale industrial and financial restructuring. Zanussi has also reduced its workforce from 19,000 employees in 1984 to 15,400. The company is investing L340bn in factory automation.

The 1986 Zanussi net profit was struck on L1,783bn of group turnover, against 1985 sales of L1,677bn. Zanussi's 1986 operating profit was about L115m, against L65m the previous year. Group net indebtedness was down to L535m from L844m in 1985. Cash flow more than doubled last year to L119m.

Mr Rossignolo said Zanussi "is now out of the tunnel."

Océ improves by 9% despite fall in sales

BY LAURA RAUN IN AMSTERDAM

Océ-van der Grinten, the Dutch photocopier maker, lifted its profits by 9 per cent to a record Fl 84.1m (\$42m) in 1986 from Fl 77.4m the previous year despite lower sales because of smaller financing charges.

The company said yesterday that it had reinforced its position in almost all countries and all markets and that new products were introduced in all operational areas.

Sales fell 4 per cent to Fl 1.89bn from Fl 1.97bn due to exchange rate movements, mainly the weaker dollar, and disposals made in 1985. However, Océ raised its earnings because of a 15 per cent fall in financing charges and 8 per cent lower operating costs, thanks to the cheaper dollar.

Earnings in the fourth quarter rose 3 per cent to Fl 28.2m from Fl 25.2m while revenue slipped 3 per cent to Fl 500.4m from Fl 518m. Cur-

rency movements were blamed for the revenue shrinkage.

The Venlo-based company is the world's leading maker of copying machines for the design engineering market and is growing in the business office sector. It operates in 25 countries.

Océ has warned that net income might grow more slowly this year due to expansion of US activities, introduction of new products and research and development costs.

Last week the company said it was negotiating to sell its Océ-Andeno specialty chemicals subsidiary to DSM, the Dutch state-owned chemicals company. Océ-Andeno has sales of Fl 125m and develops, produces and distributes pharmaceutical chemicals.

Océ said it planned to take a 32 per cent stake in Access, a concern based in Cincinnati, Ohio, that is active in digital memory and retrieval systems for design engineering.

B&O ahead at half year

By Hilary Barnes in Copenhagen

BANG & OLUFSEN, the Danish video and audio equipment manufacturer, announced an improvement in pre-tax earnings in the half-year to November 30 from Dkr 8m (\$1.2m) to Dkr 20m. Sales increased 5 per cent to Dkr 932m.

The group said that, measured in currencies of the company's export markets, which account for 74 per cent of total turnover, sales increased 19 per cent. However, the appreciation of the krone reduced this figure after conversion.

Sales improved in all markets, especially West Germany, Japan, Switzerland, France and Belgium, where there were increases of 30 per cent or more.

PERMITTED MAXIMUM STAKE RAISED TO 40%

Finns change law on foreign ownership

BY OLLI V. VIRTANEN IN HELSINKI

MAXIMUM FOREIGN ownership in Finnish companies has been raised from 20 per cent to 40 per cent, as reported briefly yesterday. Finnish banks are being restricted to owning no more than 10 per cent of non-banking companies, and a law on establishing unit trusts was also passed.

Finnish companies may seek permission to raise the number of unrestricted shares to 40 per cent of the equity, although the maximum vote of unrestricted shares stays at 20 per cent. The minority left wing parties submitted a clause requiring the Government to initiate a law on mandatory registration of all

shares in publicly-quoted companies. The law was prompted by larger Finnish companies, many of which are close to the previous ceiling of foreign ownership.

Finnish banks have strongly criticised the proposal to bring their ownership in Finnish companies down from 20 per cent to 10 per cent.

Finland's highly-centralised banking structure, with a total of only six commercial, savings and co-operative banking groups together with Postipankki, the post office bank, has made them a focus in the country's economy. So they have

come under increasing criticism for their alleged excessive powers.

The banks have asked whether their holdings in the Finnish industry are more dangerous than those of foreign investors. The banks were allowed five years to reduce their holdings to the required level.

The new law on unit trusts will allow trust companies to operate under approval by the finance ministry and supervision by the bank inspectorate. The minimum share capital of the trust company, which can own one or more unit trusts, is FM 1m (\$220,000).

The trusts are free to invest funds in securities quoted on the

Helsinki Stock Exchange although there are restrictions on investing in other Finnish or foreign securities.

Another law passed at the weekend restricts Finnish insurance companies to own no more than 20 per cent of the equity in non-insurance companies. However, they may obtain permission from the Ministry of Social Security and Welfare, to exceed the limit.

Insurance companies may not include a subsidiary in statutory retirement pension insurance in their consolidated results. This law was opposed by some insurance companies.

New Issue
February 18, 1987This advertisement appears
as a matter of record only.

GENERALE

GENERALE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE, LUXEMBOURG S.A.
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Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

DM 350,000,000

2 1/2 % Deutsche Mark Bonds due 1994 with Warrants attached

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Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium

Offering Price:

100 %

Interest:

2 1/2 % p.a., payable annually on February 18

Repayment:

February 18, 1994

Subscription Right:

each bond of DM 5,000 will be issued with 1 warrant and 3 certificates representing 37 warrants entitling the holder from April 1, 1987 until June 20, 1991 inclusive to subscribe to a total of 38 shares of common stock of Société Générale de Belgique — Generale Maatschappij van België at a subscription price of BFR 3,450 per share

Listing:

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AktiengesellschaftWestdeutsche Landesbank
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The
Korea Development
Bank

US\$100,000,000

Floating Rate Notes

due 2000

Convertible into three year

Notes on or after February 1987

Notice is hereby given that the Rate of Interest relating to the above issue has been fixed at 6 1/2 per cent for the period 18th February 1987 to 18th August 1987.

Total interest payable on 18th August 1987 per US\$10,000 Note will be US\$345.66 and per US\$250,000 Note will be US\$8,641.49.

The three year Notes will accrue interest at 6 1/2 per cent for the above period and interest payable on 18th August 1987 will amount to US\$333.09 per US\$10,000 Note and US\$8,327.26 per US\$250,000 Note.

Agent Bank:
Morgan Guaranty Trust
Company of New York
London

Westpac Banking Corporation

(Incorporated with limited liability in the State of New South Wales, Australia)

U.S.\$150,000,000 Subordinated Floating Rate
Notes due 1997

In accordance with the terms and conditions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that for the Interest Period from 18th February 1987 to 18th August 1987 the Notes will carry an Interest Rate of 6 1/2 per cent per annum. The Interest Amount payable on the Interest Payment Date which will be 18th August 1987 is U.S.\$342.52 for each Note of U.S.\$10,000 and U.S.\$8,562.93 for each Note of U.S.\$250,000.

Westpac Banking Corporation

23 Wallbrook, London EC4N 8LD

Agent Bank

Oil and Natural Gas Commission
U.S. \$150,000,000

Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes due 1997
Notice is hereby given that the Rate of Interest has been fixed at 6 1/2 per cent and that the interest payable on the relevant Interest Payment Date August 18, 1987, against Coupon No. 5 in respect of US\$10,000 nominal of the Notes will be US\$333.09.

February 18, 1987, London
By Citibank, N.A. (CSI Dept.), Agent Bank

CITIBANK

LINFIN CORPORATION

U.S.\$275,000,000

Collateralized Floating Rate
Notes due 1995

For the three months
17th February, 1987 to 18th May, 1987 the
notes will carry an interest rate of 6 1/2 per cent per annum with an
interest amount of U.S.\$835.94 per U.S.\$50,000 nominal.
The relevant interest payment date will be
18th May, 1987

Listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange

Bankers Trust
Company, London

Agent Bank

MeraBank

A Federal Savings Bank

Mortgage Portfolio Restructuring

\$950,000,000 (Approximately)

Mortgage Loans and Mortgage-Backed Securities Sold

\$950,000,000 (Approximately)

Mortgage Loans and Mortgage-Backed Securities Purchased

We acted as a financial advisor to MeraBank and a principal
in the execution of the above transactions.

Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc.

New York/Atlanta/Boston/Chicago/Dallas/Los Angeles/San Francisco
Amsterdam/Geneva/Hong Kong/London/Paris

February 1987

Swap opportunities boost Australian dollar sector

Hambros Bank led a £50m five-year deal for Norsk Hydro, the Norwegian oil, chemicals, and fertilisers company. The 10 per cent bond was priced at 100½.

Nevertheless, Bankers Trust said that the issue had met good demand from Japanese investors. It was quoted at a bid price of 99.97, compared with 10 basis point fees.

Corporation, priced at 100½, and a SFr 30m five-year equity warrants issue for Nakanogumi, the Japanese construction company. This deal carries an indicated 2 per cent coupon and will be priced on February 24.

A number of the firms are still not able to transmit closing quotes to the AIBD daily, as they have been required to do since the beginning of the year. Disclosure of high and low trading prices each day is also expected to take time to apply.

the Kohl Government's election pledges, though no commitment was made as to when this would happen.

But even as matters stand, the combined turnover of West

go in ones and twos, the scale of the move is highly unusual. The men are going to another US bank, Manufacturers Hanover Trust, which intends

Mr Hans Roth (securities sales). They will take up their new jobs with the rival bank in April.

have around the world," he said. Mr Mueller will be the managing director of the investment bank, which Manufacturers Hanover has been planning for about a year.

The moves from Citibank are the latest in a series to affect the bank both in and

loss of the four men would be a blow to Citibank, where general dissatisfaction with the parent group's perceived lack of strategy has been a main reason for the continu-

Manufacturers Hanover already has a small German branch network, centred on Frankfurt, for normal commercial banking.

Final figures for 1986 show that the Matif traded 1.66m of

The Matif's Treasury bill contract, launched at the end of June, had a less sparkling start. In its six months of existence

long bond and FFf 250bn on the T-bill—more than the FFf 964.8bn turnover on the cash market in French government securities in 1986.

they have been required to do since the beginning of the year. Disclosure of high and low trading prices each day is also expected to take time to apply.

Gefco's net per share earnings fell to 27 cents from 46.9 cents and Msauli's dropped to 41.2 cents from 85.5 cents.

World Bank \$4	100	+95	95%	-0%	6.36
World Bank \$4	150	7185	254%	-0%	4.94
Average price change on day -0% on week +0%					

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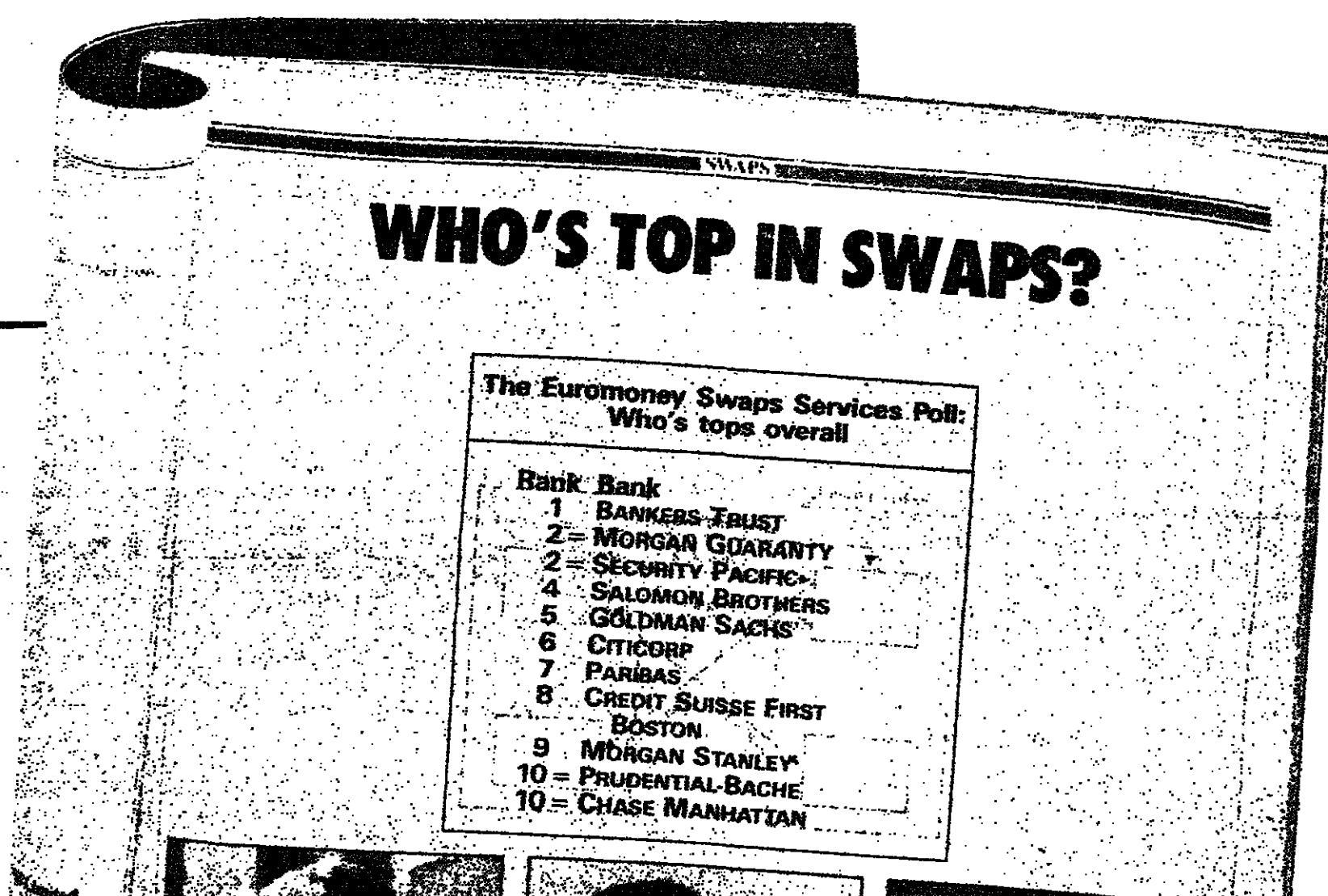
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Generale Bank
Hambros Bank Limited
Kleinwort Benson Limited
Merrill Lynch Capital Markets
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A new Euromoney survey reveals to the rest of the financial world what our swaps clients already know.

Bankers Trust is the very best overall performer in the swaps market. Bar none.

That's not us talking. It's the voice of corporate and sovereign swap users worldwide, collected and totaled by Euromoney.

In a market as sophisticated and sizeable as the swaps market, it takes special skills to be the institution at the top. Bankers Trust has those special skills: the ingenuity and creativity that mark a leader. Plus a record for consistent market innovation that has put us at the forefront of the swaps

market from the start.

Innovation indeed. In 1986 alone, Bankers Trust developed the forward swap. The coupon option swap. The minimum and maximum interest rate swap. The currency option swap. And a host of other equally innovative structured transactions.

So when we spell out the alternatives to our clients, they know we're pulling out all the stops to arrange a deal that will do exactly what they want it to do.

That's true market leadership. If you're in the swaps market, it's leadership you could profit by. By dealing with the bank that delivers it: Bankers Trust.

Bankers Trust Company
Merchant banking, worldwide.

UK COMPANY NEWS

Lucas in £52m deal for US aerospace engineer

BY DAVID THOMAS

LUCAS INDUSTRIES, the automotive, aerospace and industrial components group, is making an agreed bid worth about \$750m (£52.3m) for Western Gear, the aerospace subsidiary of Becor Western, a Wisconsin-based engineering company.

The acquisition is the long-awaited major acquisition expected as a result of Lucas' declared strategy of building up its aerospace and industrial divisions, particularly in the US, which will put relatively less stress on Lucas' core automotive business.

Sir Godfrey Messervy, Lucas chairman, said when unveiling the company's results in November that the aerospace and industrial divisions would continue to expand both by new contracts and acquisition.

Lucas shares closed unchanged at 605p on the news of the bid.

Western Gear made pre-tax profits of \$8m on sales of \$115m in the nine months to the end of September 1986. Its products, which are sold mainly in the US, include auxiliary systems, auxiliary gear boxes and helicopter transmissions.

Lucas makes acquisition systems in Europe, and Dr Alan Watkins, Lucas Aerospace managing director, said last night that the acquisition of Western Gear would allow Lucas to achieve economies of scale.

The exact price of the Western Gear acquisition, which is in cash, will be calculated after Western Gear's net assets at the end of February are known. The acquisition is expected to be completed by April.

It is Lucas's fourth acquisition in the US in less than six months. In September, it paid \$10.45m for Weinschel Engineering, a microwave components and calibration instruments company.

Last month, Lucas bought for \$11.5m AUL Instruments, a New York-based company which makes defence electronics and test equipment.

In January, it also acquired Schaeffler Engineering, a Philadelphia-based manufacturer of sensors and transducers used in industry and aerospace, for \$39m.

Lucas is considering making more acquisitions in aerospace components. Last month, it announced \$117m multiple-option financing facility led by Schroders.

The acquisition of Western Gear is likely to increase the share of its aerospace division in Lucas' total sales to about a quarter.

In the year to the end of July 1986, the aerospace division made \$31m profit on sales of \$285m. Overall, Lucas reported pre-tax profit of \$95.2m on turnover of £1,622m.



Sir Godfrey Messervy, chairman of Lucas Industries

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Strong & Fisher pulls out of Garnar bid

By Nikki Tait

Strong & Fisher is abandoning any attempt to gain control of fellow leather manufacturer, Garnar Booth, following the acquisition of two smaller leather-related companies—a hide and skin market business, and a leather clothing, tannery group—for a total of £2.38m.

Strong and Fisher's £20m bid for Garnar had lapsed following the referral of its offer to the Monopolies Commission last November. The Commission is thought to have been close to completing its report, and a decision on the outcome could have been reached next month, although the report was not officially due until May.

Strong and Fisher had built up a 16.4 per cent stake in Garnar which it said yesterday would be retained as "a trade investment."

The two companies which Strong is acquiring will allow it to bid for sheepskins in the North of England and give it more capacity in clothing leather production—two objectives of the Garnar bid—according to Mr Richard Strong, managing director of Strong & Fisher.

W. D. Mark, a private company with around 50 shareholders for which Strong is making an offer of 340p cash plus one of its own shares for each Mark share held, operates six hide and skin markets from York to Edinburgh. Directors and certain other shareholders, speaking for 50.26 per cent of the equity, have given irrevocable undertakings to accept.

The second company, Silvester Linton, has a skin tannery near Rochdale and a new adjacent—though not yet fitted—tannery at Dolegell, North Wales. Both companies incurred pre-tax losses in the last full year—£147,910 and £326,517 respectively.

However, Strong argues that overheads will become better structured as it pushes its own business through the two companies. Strong's clothing leather production, argues Mr Richard Strong, will rise by 25 per cent following the acquisitions.

Mr John Fooks, deputy chairman of Garnar Booth, said yesterday that he was extremely pleased with the news that the bid had not been rejected. He did not expect a good prospect for either group commercially, and now we can get on with running the company," he commented.

Strong & Fisher and Garnar Booth are the two largest remaining companies within Britain's leather industry, and Garnar h1 argued that while they remained independent, there was a balance in the market which ensured both outlets and supply to the smaller tanneries and independent tanneries.

Garnar Booth shares, which added 14p ahead of yesterday's announcement, slipped back only 2p to 218p at 1820. Commenting on the possibility of another predator, gained 14p to 180p on the Mr Fooks said: "It is very difficult to see who would make an unfriendly offer. It is quite a small industry."

Christopher Parkes looks at Dixons move on Cyclops Casting an eye on fresh fields

RUNNING SHORT of prime selling sites and new challenges on the domestic electrical circuit, Dixons Group has done the logical — and expected — thing, and plugged itself in to the US retailing powerhouse.

The move on Cyclops Corporation of Pittsburgh, launched yesterday with the blessing of the US company's board, will give Britain's leading electrical retailer a substantial foothold in the US.

Mr Gerald Corbett, Dixons corporate finance director, is more bullish. "We shall be the third largest player in the fastest growing segment in the biggest market in the world," he says.

A lavish, enough claim, considering that the 119 Silo electrical stores run by Cyclops last year accounted for only \$46m of the \$400m-odd (\$26bn) spent in the US on appliances and home entertainment equipment.

It does, however, bear closer examination. The past few years have seen the rapid emergence of a new breed of shopkeeper in the US.

A handful of so-called "power retailers" has been making speedy inroads into the electrical goods markets long dominated by independent retailers and department store chains.

Silo alone has doubled its selling space in the past three years. Operating from out-of-town, large stores, the 10 leaders are estimated to have increased their share of the US market from less than 4 per cent to 7 per cent between 1982 and 1985.

Looking at a US market worth, say, \$45bn by 1990, Mr Corbett sees the number of leading players reduced by attrition or merger to about four sharing 15 per cent of the trade.

It is plain that Dixons aims to keep itself among the top four, and Mr Corbett says, Silo will benefit from the British group's expertise in financial control, purchasing and merchandising. This will give the chain the necessary competitive

RETAIL INTERESTS OF CYCLOPS

	1986	1985	1984
Turnover	\$m	\$m	\$m
Cost of sales	546.2	501.0	407.2
Gross profit	492.3	451.1	363.5
Operating expenses	53.9	49.9	43.7
Operating profit	28.4	26.5	23.0
Interest	25.5	23.4	20.7
Profit before tax	0.6	0.7	0.9
Tax	24.9	22.7	19.8
Net profit	12.3	11.1	9.9
	12.6	11.6	9.9

Results include site outlets and 11 Do-It-Yourself stores.

edge as the market matures, he claims.

For the moment, the trade is developing rapidly in the wide open spaces of edge-of-town malls. Between 1982 and 1985, sales of each of the five leaders—Silo sits behind Circuit City and Highland in the league—grew by more than 30 per cent a year.

Mr Corbett expects this figure to settle at about 25 per cent until the end of the decade. Competition is at present minimal among the power retailers. "There is no retail formula. All the companies are relatively unsophisticated. Merchandising is rudimentary," he says.

The situation is such that Silo, CC and Highland even co-operate with one another in buying groups.

While it is difficult, if not impossible to establish a substantial presence in regions dominated by an existing chain, there are cities enough offering virgin territory for expansion.

Dixons probably has time enough to grow the Silo chain, discover the most compatible elements of its UK strategies and graft them on before the market approaches saturation.

It will not, Mr Corbett stresses, see the hundreds committed by other British retailers tempted into the US market. Past failures, he says, have been

characterised by UK companies buying businesses which were either in a weak competitive position or labouring under weak local management.

Nor will Dixons make the mistake of trying to run the business from London along British lines, he says.

The existing Cyclops management is to stay, and although junior UK management people will pass through the US on their learning curve, none of Dixons top executives will be attached to the Cyclops board.

There is, however, a little tidying up to be done. Silo stores, for example, carry appreciably more slow-moving white goods than Circuit City or Highland—some 30 per cent compared with less than 20 per cent.

Others, such as Federated, carry only house electronics which offer better sales and profits per square foot—the hallmark of Dixons UK strength. Volume sales of brown goods in the US are growing about twice as quickly as kitchen appliances.

Other areas which may need attention include the scale of Silo's individual operations. The average size of its stores is about 10,000 sq ft, while about half Circuit City's outlets have 35,000-to-40,000 sq ft of selling space.

Circuit City also has an advantage in that most of its



Stanley Kalms, chairman of the Dixons Group

stores are concentrated up the heavily-populated, prosperous eastern seaboard of the US.

Still, Silo has its strengths, with market dominance around Philadelphia stemming from its 29 stores in the area, the merit of being the first to develop around Seattle and Portland, and a broader national spread of stores than any of the competition.

With Dixons it could probably gain the muscle and resilience it will ultimately need as financial and purchasing controls are tightened and the UK group's redoubtable Far East purchasing power is brought into play.

However, the key to success—as with other UK ventures in the US—may lie ultimately with management.

Mr Corbett is generous with his praise for Mr Barry Feinberg, the president and chief executive of Silo who has built up sales from \$66m since he took the reins in 1976.

Cyclops is a successful, vigorous company, Mr Corbett adds. "This is a different kind of acquisition for Dixons. It's not like Supasave or Currys where you have to go in and boot out all the management."

Giltrap's £10m bid fails despite market foray

By Nikki Tait

Giltrap, the New Zealand-based motor importer and distributor, has lost its £10m bid for Frank G. Gates, the Woodford-based Ford dealer.

By yesterday's closing date—the 60th day of the offer—Giltrap had received acceptance from holders of 14.4 per cent of Gates' shares. However, Samuel Montagu, advisers to Giltrap, yesterday went into the market and acquired a further 276,500 shares—of which 250,000 had previously been accepted to the bid by the IRC Pension Fund. The shares were bought at 140p, the value of the Giltrap cash offer.

That gave Giltrap a 20.7 per cent stake in Gates and, with acceptances, took its control to just over 35 per cent. The 60 per cent block of family-held shares, however, remained solidly opposed to the bid.

Mr Richard Palmer, joint managing director of Giltrap, said yesterday that he was disappointed that the Gates board had not recommended the offer, but was "encouraged and most appreciative" of the support from institutional and independent shareholders.

Samuel Montagu added that Giltrap currently has no plans to sell its 21 per cent stake in Gates. The Gates board was in meetings yesterday, the only comment from their advisers, Shearson Lehman was that "the facts speak for themselves."

Malaysia rubber and palm oil producer Padang Senang Holdings saw its turnover fall from \$581,000 to \$509,000 and its pre-tax profit from £145,000 to £124,000 in the year ended September 30 1986.

Earnings were reduced from 1.75p to 1.45p after tax \$52,000 (£61,000) but the dividend is held at 1.1p net.

Gross profit for the year slipped to £139,000 (£141,000), while income from fixed assets investments was down to \$64,000 (£61,000), and interest receivable fell to £18,000 (£28,000).

The company also intends to introduce an executive share option scheme.

All proposals are subject to the approval of shareholders. An Extraordinary General Meeting has been convened for March 15.

The directors of Rotaprint, the printing equipment maker, said yesterday that they were not aware of any underlying reason for the recent sharp rise in the share price.

The company's trading performance continued to be as indicated in the interim statement of last December. In that the directors reported that losses for the half year ended September 30 1986 were cut from \$394,000 to \$308,000, and the benefit of reorganisation would be reflected in the second half.

They hoped that the company would be in profit for the next financial year, and pay a dividend as soon as that position was reached.

Net asset value (unaudited) as at 31st January 1987

Income Shares 42.66p

Capital Shares 11.50p

Unquoted stock: 1 Scrip issues made previously.

Hewetson coming to USM with forecast of £440,000

By Janice Worman

HEWETSON, one of the UK's top five manufacturers of raised access flooring, is coming to the USM with a market capitalisation of £4.16m.

Broker Ransburg of Leeds is placing 24.4 per cent of the company's shares at 70p per share, to raise £1.02m. Of this \$630,000 is new money, which will be used to reduce borrowings and give room for growth, according to Mr Peter Price, managing director. "There are no acquisitions in prospect at the moment, but if anything suitable comes along, we will have the firepower, both in terms of cash and creating more paper."

The balance will go to directors and other investors who are selling part of their holdings.

Hewetson is forecasting year-end pre-tax profits to March 1987 of £440,000 and a net final dividend of 1.7p. On the placing price, this gives a prospective price earnings ratio of 12.6.

In the year to March 1986, Hewetson produced a profit of £308,000 on turnover of £10.5m. The company claims between 15 and 20 per cent of the UK market, with overseas markets in the Far East, Middle East and Europe.

The company's profits have grown steadily through the 1980s, with the exception of 1984-85, when heavy investment in new staff and branch offices saw the pre-tax figure drop 29.5 per cent to £124,000.

Dealings in the company's shares are due to start on Monday, February 23.

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Notice is hereby given that the interest payable for the interest period 29th August, 1986 to 27th February, 1987 calculated up to and including the 17th February, 1987 will be \$304.55 per \$10,000 coupon and \$1,522.77 per \$50,000 coupon.

18th February, 1987

MANUFACTURERS HANOVER LIMITED

AGENT BANK

GRANVILLE

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High Low	Company	Price	Change	Gross Yield	P/E
100 118	Ass. Brit. Ind. Ordinary	160	—	7.5	4.8
163 121	Ass. Brit. Ind. CULS	163	—	10.0	8.1
40 28	Amstrad and Rhodes	34	- 1	4.2	12.4
80 64	BSB Design Group (USM)	79	—	1.4	1.8
218 108	Bardon Hill Group	218	—	4.6	2.1
102 65	Brey Technologies	102	+ 1	4.5	1.1
138 75	CCL Group Ordinary	132	+ 2	2.9	4.2
107 66	CCL Group 11pc Conv. Pl.	93	—	15.7	16.9
271 116	Carborundum Ordinary	238	—	9.1	3.4
83 90	Carborundum 7.5pc Pl.	83	—	10.7	11.5
123 75	George Blair	88	- 2	10.7	11.5
114 57	Ind. Precision Castings	114	—	3.8	4.3
178 120	Isla Group	120	—	6.7	5.9
124 101	Jackson Group	120	—	16.8	—
377 280	James Burroughs Sp Pl.	359	—	6.1	8.1
100 88	James Burroughs	91	+ 2	17.0	10.1
1038 342	Mulholland NV (AmstSE)	656	—	12.8	14.2
280 280	Record Ridgway Ordinary	351	—	—	36.4
100 83	Record Ridgway 10pc Pl.	83	—	—	8.3
89 87	Robert Jenkins	89	—	14.1	17.0
98 30	Scutronics	56	+ 1	—	3.9
145 87	Tonday and Carlisle	145	—	5.7	8.8
340 234	Trevelin Holdings	324	—	7.9	2.4
78 42	Unicof Holdings (BS)	78	—	2.8	3.7
125 66	Walter Aldrich	125	—	5.0	4.0
200 190	W. S. Yeates	198	—	17.4	8.9
98 57	West. Yorks. Ind. Hosp. (USM)	98	—	5.8	14.0

Granville & Co. Limited
 8 Lovat Lane, London EC3R 8BP
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Granville Davies Coleman Limited
 27 Lovat Lane, London EC3R 8DT
 Telephone 01-621 1212
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UK COMPANY NEWS

Wardle in £44m bid attempt for Chamberlain

BY PHILIP COGGAN

Wardle Stores, the budding industrial conglomerate led by Mr. Brian Taylor, yesterday launched what promises to be a bitterly-fought £44m bid for Chamberlain Phipps, shoe components and adhesives group.

The bid, which follows a merger approach by Wardle last month, was immediately sharply rejected by Chamberlain as "having no commercial or industrial merit."

Wardle originally bought 75,000 Chamberlain shares, or 0.2 per cent, in January, but its hopes of a merger were rebuffed by the Northamptonshire-based company. On February 10, Mr. Taylor said that "in view of the substantial rise in the share price of Chamberlain Phipps," since Wardle bought its original stake at 51p, the company would review its position.

Certainly, yesterday's offer ignored some of the recent strength in the Chamberlain share price, which closed last night at 130p. Wardle is offer-

ing three of its ordinary 10 shares for every 10 in Chamberlain, which on the basis of yesterday's closing share prices values each Chamberlain share at 120p, 10p below the market rate. There is also a cash offer for the preference shares of 108.3p.

Wardle believes that under its direction, Chamberlain Phipps' operating management "would be able to concentrate or strengthening their market positions whilst avoiding the distractions caused by an ill-judged and poorly directed diversification programme."

In the early 1980s, Chamberlain moved from its shoe components base into adhesives. After some early successes, the company ran into problems in the US and its pre-tax profits slumped to £5.4m in the year to March 31, 1986 against £5.6m the previous year. However, adhesives profits were some 30 per cent higher at the interim stage.

Wardle said there would be

some synergy benefits from an enlarged group since it was a large user of adhesives, and like Chamberlain it relied on controlling its raw material cost structure. But Chamberlain dispute that there would be any industrial logic in a merger.

Wardle Stores came to the market in 1984 as largely a plastic sheeting manufacturer but has since embarked on an ambitious expansion programme. In June, it acquired RFD Group for £28m after a rival bid from Scapa Group. Wardle sold off the unwanted bits of RFD to Scapa for £14.5m and retained the parachute and rubber dinghy business which now forms its safety and survival equipment division.

In January, Wardle announced pre-tax profits for the year to August 30 1986 up 49 per cent at £5.6m.

Wardle's share price closed down 1p at 40p. Its merchant banking advisers are Schroders and Chamberlain's are Baring Brothers.

Market waits as L and N keeps talking

By Nikki Tait

Directors of London and Northern, the construction, energy, and healthcare company which is facing a £90m hostile bid from Demerger Two, yesterday spent a second day closed in board meetings at the company's London headquarters while the market digested the profits statement released at midnight on Monday.

In it, London and Northern warned of "disappointing" figures for 1986, and said it would be reviewing the bid—which it has previously opposed—and would make a statement to shareholders later.

However, as the day wore, analysts became increasingly convinced that directors were about to recommend the Demerger offer—or at least the 51p share cash alternative. L and N shares added 1p to 72p.

Suggestions that Demerger might seek to revise its cash alternative, or withdraw it, in the light of London and Northern's statement, were rejected by Mr. Peter Earl, director of finance, who is advising Demerger Two.

"Our offer is our offer," he commented yesterday adding that there had been no approach to the Takeover Panel to see whether the L and N statement constituted grounds for scaling down the offer. The Demerger Two offer is due to close next Tuesday, unless it is extended.

After the profits statement, companies acting in concert with it had acquired a further 100,000 shares in L and N, taking the total stake held by Demerger associates to around 6.5 per cent.

The profits statement from London and Northern warned that the civil engineering division had incurred losses on overseas contracts, and profits from health care would be lower than anticipated. Building was satisfactory and natural resources and manufacturing should show improved figures.

Nikki Tait on the growing problems facing L and N
Not so full of Eastern promise

AT FIVE minutes to midnight on Monday, directors of London & Northern were locked, incommunicado, in their Essex Street headquarters.

All day, the board and its advisers—in the face of a £90m hostile bid from Demerger Two—had wrestled with a final "day 39" profits forecast for shareholders: midnight was the deadline.

When the statement emerged, reasons for the bizarre delay became obvious.

It predicted "disappointing" results for 1986, talked of undisclosed losses on overseas civil engineering contracts, forecast lower-than-anticipated results on the troubled health-care side, a large tax charge, extraordinary write-offs and even hinted that the final dividend could be passed.

Scarcely a statement any company would wish to make in the closing stages of a bid battle—and for one traditionally viewed as an income stock, the dividend was a particular blow.

"Quite disgraceful," comments one analyst following the company.

For institutions with long memories, London & Northern's results are an all-too-familiar story.

When the business, headed by flamboyant former barrister and Colonel's son, Jock Mackenzie, floated in 1963, it had a two-year record and was a holding company for plant hire, road haulage and construction interests in the north east.

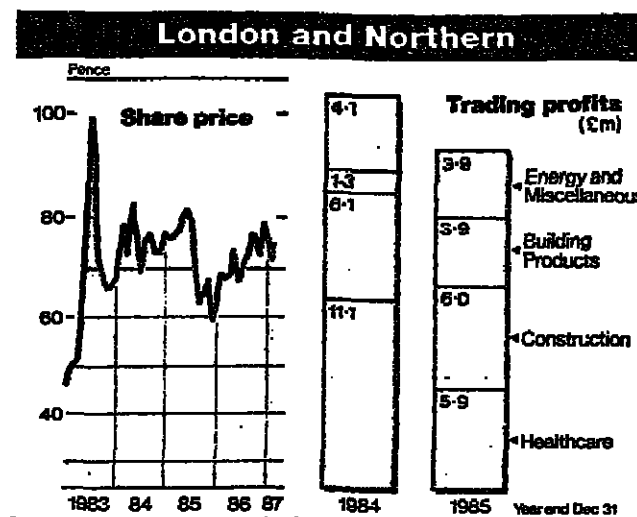
From that base, it spent the next 15 years picking up minority stakes in a large number of individual companies—predominantly in construction and related fields.

Then, in the mid-seventies, senior executives at one building contractor subsidiary were convicted of "jump" tax fraud. Shortly afterwards, a slump in land values produced problems for a second house-building offshoot. The combined events produced a £2m write-down in goodwill.

A year later, in 1977, matters worsened. Profits—instead of being similar to the £9.8m pre-tax earned in 1976, as forecast—tumbled to £6.4m, with both interim and final payouts cut. Institutional life abounded.

It was not until 1983 that London & Northern appeared to make amends—yet, in fact, took the very step which today is the source of its problems.

It bought United Medical Enterprises, the hospital services company where British Technology Group held a 65.7



Jock Mackenzie, chairman of London & Northern

per cent stake, for £24.5m, and raised £15.5m via a rights issue to help fund the deal.

The business was seen, says Charles Mackenzie, Jock's son and now a director of L & N, "as a good cash generator and very exciting at the time."

In retrospect, he adds bitterly, "the market probably overvalued it—more in it than was actually there."

UME was making pre-tax profits of over £9m a year, almost entirely from hospital management and equipment contracts in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, and the deal was struck on an exist pe of 5.5.

Today, with the collapse in the oil price, the picture is very different. UME lost its management contract with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company in early 1986; the contract to manage the Al Qassimi Hospital in Sharjah was terminated at the end of last year.

That leaves principally the contract on the Al Corniche Maternity Hospital in Abu Dhabi extended until 1988, and the 1984 Saudi Ministry of Defence contracts which come up for renewal next June, with the prospect of retendering at substantially lower prices. Non-Middle East turnover at UME is under £500,000.

Worse, London and Northern is owed some £25m in contracts receipts from the Sharjah hospital—profits on the bulk of which, Mr. Mackenzie admits, have been booked—while its gearing, mid-1986, was heavy at the 70 per cent level.

Some £2m has been received on account, but for the rest, Mr. Mackenzie can only say that the matter "is now in the lap of the sheikhs."

Problems have not ended with Sharjah: a £3.7m provision against losses on three hospital equipment contracts in Saudi was taken above the line in the 1985 figures, and a £6.5m extraordinary provision followed legal wrangles on another undisclosed contract.

UME, of course, is not all of L and N—it accounted for under one-third of trading profits in 1985 compared with half in 1984. So what of other prospects?

There is little to write home about on the building side, where the news of overseas civil engineering losses presumably harks back to Middle East problems, margins on public sector work are under pressure and work hard to come by.

Developments in Aberdeen have also been hit by the oil industry downturn. Housebuilding looks more promising; the company has pushed into the higher-margin market in the south, and is making forays into the sheltered housing business.

But together, analysts suggest that these businesses might warrant a historic p/e of 8 or 9 at the most.

The natural resources side is much healthier. Rockville, which consists principally of quarries in the US is seen as a genuinely shrewd acquisition for £23m in April 1985.

Contributed £3.3m pre-interest in eight months during 1986, and was the reason for the improvement on that side.

UK business, in contrast, slid backwards last year. However, Weatherseal, the double-glazing subsidiary, is now perking up and a 10 times rating might be put on these businesses overall.

bag—containing the fast-growing cellular radio business, Tactico, but also two unexciting plastics companies. Also included is the 30 per cent TACE stake, worth £9m, and a couple of oil services companies, dependent on North Sea demand.

To date, L and N's defence has consisted largely of pleas that the Middle East—and other oil-related business—is out of its hands, but that it has made considerable efforts to reorganise management in the UK and weeded out some less successful offshoots during 1986.

It has been helped by the fact that Demerger's plan to split the business into four parts and refloat them separately is viewed with considerable scepticism—both to its practicability and to its financial wisdom—and needs 80 per cent acceptances if the scheme is to go ahead.

Suggestions that Demerger, whose backers include Saudi interests, might be better placed to obtain the Middle East repayments are pooh-poohed by L and N—"It's like taking the canton of Zug to sort out Glasgow City Council," says Charles Mackenzie.

Before Monday's announcement analysts were suggesting pre-tax profits of £8.5m for 1986. Yesterday, no-one was guessing—"They'd need to make £5m to pay the dividend," commented one, "so it could be under that."

There is more conviction about the share price; without the underpinning of Demerger's cash alternative, at least one analyst predicts a slide to the 50-55p level.

Suddenly, Demerger's 51p a share looks very attractive.

Temple Bar assets up 23%

Net assets of the Temple Bar Investment Trust rose by £22.4m to £120.4m over the 1986 year. That was equal to 209.45p per 25p share net of prior charges at market value, an improvement of 23 per cent over the previous year's figure of 170.28p.

Attributable profits for 1986 rose from £3.25m to £3.87m after taking account of tax, little changed at £1.57m (£1.51m).

Earnings increased from 5.58p to 6.85p and a final dividend of 3.85p (3.3p) raises the total by 0.85p to 6.25p net.

Professor Roland Smith, the trust's chairman, said the results and asset performance reflected buoyant conditions in the London equity market.

He pointed out, however, that although the equity market had continued to forge ahead since the year end the trust would need to be even more entrepreneurial if its record of the past five years was to be sustained.

Prism Leisure forecasts £0.5m in USM flotation

BY JANICE WARMAN

Prism Leisure Corporation, wholesaler and distributor of pre-recorded cassettes, records, compact discs and computer games software, with a market capitalisation of £4.2m, is coming to the USM.

This is the first new issue to be sponsored by the National Investment and Entrepreneurship Fund of provincial stockholders.

It is placing 1.06m shares at 120p to raise £127m. Of this £636,000 is new money for the company, and the balance will go to the founders.

Prism is forecasting profits before tax of not less than £500,000 for the year to March 31, 1987, which would give a prospective price/earnings ratio of 11.3. Last year's before-tax figure was £301,000 on turnover of £4.1m.

The company's UK customers include HMV, W. H. Smith and Virgin Retail. Its exports to Europe, the Middle East and

the US total 24 per cent of sales.

Mr. Ivor Young, managing director, said part of the proceeds of the flotation will go towards buying more merchandising rights.

Saving rights to music and computer games for repackaging under Prism's own labels almost doubles the potential profit margin.

The placing will also enable Prism to increase its product range, he said. Trading will grow activity for the group.

Meldrum Trust

Meldrum Investment Trust saw net assets improve to 142.8p at the end of 1986 compared with an adjusted 17.3p a year earlier. Earnings per share for 1986 rose to 3.55p (3.05p) before the final dividend being raised from an adjusted 1.75p to 1.9p, making a total of 3p (2.75p). Net revenue rose to £1.38m (£1.24m).

STOCK EXCHANGE BUSINESS IN JANUARY

Buoyant gilts lift turnover to £116bn.

BY TERRY BYLAND

A SUBSTANTIAL increase in business on the Stock Exchange last month was featured by heavy turnover in Government bonds as investors responded to the reduction in the West German discount rate, and hopes that Japan would follow suit.

Turnover in ordinary shares also rose smartly in January, when bank and consumer stocks led the sector to successive peaks and hopes of tax cuts on Budget Day, confirmed last month as March 17.

Also encouraging investors was the growing belief that a UK general election is not far

off, and that Mrs. Thatcher's chances of success are high despite an erratic trend among opinion polls.

Stock Exchange statistics for January show that turnover over the full range of the market, taking in both the interest and equity sectors, surged by 104.8 per cent to £116.65bn.

Turnover in British Government issues advanced by 172.7 per cent to £53.37bn, with the sector featured by a rush to the short end of the market as investors looked for fresh moves by the Group of Five countries to protect the falling

US dollar.

Trading in short-dated Gilts—those with five years or less to run to maturity, jumped by 157 per cent to £27.38bn.

Buyers were moving aggressively into shorts in the days before the cut in West German rates on January 22, and then began to look for a similar move from Tokyo.

But the longer-dated Gilts were also active, although comparisons with December are distorted by a change in Exchange reporting. Turnover in Gilts with more than five years to run totalled £55.99bn against £19.9bn in the previous month.

Over the month, the FT Government Securities Index gained 1.69 points to 85.31. The longer end of the market proved unable to sustain its upward momentum at the end of the month, when no meeting of the G-5 countries emerged and opinion polls cast some uncertainty over prospects for the Government's chances should an election be held in the UK this summer.

On the equity side, the advance in the market was more pronounced. The Financial Times Ordinary Index, which reflects price movements in 30 leading stocks, jumped 127.1 points to 144.1, then a new peak, but subsequently left 45 points behind by the renewed surge in the early days of February.

The equity sector was buoyed by the strength of the Tokyo and New York markets, which also moved to new peaks last month. But the expectation of domestic tax cuts, and perhaps lower interest rates as well, kept the finance and consumer sectors in strong form.

Turnover in ordinary shares rose by 22 per cent to £27.38bn. During the early part of the month the increased trading reflected strong buying of the internationalised orientated shares, including Glaxo and Imperial Chemical Industries. Towards the end of January the attention switched to domestic issues as UK institutions took the lead in the marketplace.

MONTHLY TURNOVER

	Value £m	% of total	No. of bargains	% of total	Average daily value £m	Average bargain value £000's	Average no. of daily bargains
BRITISH FUNDS							
Short dated (5 years or less to run)	27,381.9	23.5	32,847	2.9	1,303.9	623.6	1,544
Medium (5-15 years)	22,310.9	19.1	29,802	2.6	1,043.4	748.6	1,419
Others (over 15 years)	33,680.2	28.9	29,740	2.6	1,603.8	1,644.6	1,416
Total	83,373.0	71.5	92,389	8.1	3,970.1	902.4	4,399
IRISH FUNDS							
Short dated (5 years or less to run)	374.8	0.3	1,194	0.1	17.8	313.9	57
Others (over 5 years)	831.8	0.7	1,347	0.1	39.6	617.5	64
UK LOCAL AUTHORITY	28.5	0.1	516	0.1	1.4	55.2	24
OVERSEAS GOVERNMENT	2,223.2	2.5	7,736	0.7	139.4	378.5	368
OTHER FIXED INTEREST	1,381.1	1.1	29,346	2.6	61.8	42.8	1,426
ORDINARY SHARES	27,830.0	23.8	1,009,837	88.3	1,325.2	27.6	48,987
TOTAL	116,647.5	100.0	1,142,959	100.0	5,554.6	102.1	54,426

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SHARE CAPITAL

Authorised	Issued and fully paid
Number	Number
6,000,000	Shares of common stock of \$0.01 each
4,444,446	Shares of non-cumulative convertible preferred stock of \$0.01 each
556,556	Shares of preferred stock of \$0.01 each

The Company is engaged in the production and marketing of information storage and retrieval systems.

The Company acquired the assets of Minnema, Ltd. (including the entire issued share capital of each of its subsidiaries and all rights to its technology) and assumed certain of the liabilities of Minnema, Ltd. on 29 August 1986.

Application has been made to the Council of the Stock Exchange for the grant of permission to deal in the whole of the issued shares of common stock of the Company in the United Securities Market. No application is being made for these securities to be admitted to listing.

Particulars relating to the Company are available in the Extol Statistical Service and copies may be obtained during normal business hours up to and including 4 March 1987 from:

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18 February 1987

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Daiwa Europe (Deutschland) GmbH

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S.G. Warburg Securities

Baring Brothers & Co., Limited

Bayerische Vereinsbank Aktiengesellschaft

County NatWest Capital Markets Limited

DG BANK Deutsche Genossenschaftsbank

Goldman Sachs International Corp.

Landesbank Rheinland-Pfalz - Girozentrale -

Morgan Guaranty GmbH

Schweizerischer Bankverein (Deutschland) AG

Swiss Volksbank



Chase
Investment
Bank

UK COMPANY NEWS

IMPALA PLATINUM HOLDINGS LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)
Registered No. 57/01979/06INTERIM PROFIT STATEMENT AND
DECLARATION OF INTERIM DIVIDEND

The unaudited consolidated results for the half year ended 31 December 1986, are as follows:—

	6 months to 31.12.86 R000	6 months to 31.12.85 R000	% Change	Year to 30.6.86 R000
Sales revenue (Platinum and by-product metals produced)	557,185	432,046	+29.0	841,243
Consolidated profit for the period	229,442	165,938	+38.3	290,309
Less: Taxation and lease consideration	103,021	64,112	+60.7	97,605
Profit for the period after taxation and lease consideration	126,421	101,826	+24.2	192,704
Earnings per share (cents)	219	177	+24.2	334
Dividends per share (cents)	45	35	+28.6	135

The programme of shaft sinking and the elimination of process constraints to improve operating efficiencies continued, and as a result, production increased at the planned rate during the period under review. Capital expenditure amounted to R72,441,000 (1985: R55,288,000).

Customer demand for all metals remained firm and, in spite of a somewhat stronger Rand and depressed base metal prices, the increased sales and improved prices for the major precious metals resulted in a higher sales revenue. However, a substantial part of the company's output is sold under long term contract where revenue is protected by cost-related price escalations.

In the second half of the financial year, sales volumes are expected to remain at much the same levels as in the previous six months.

Interim Dividend declared on 17 February 1987—Payable on 9 April 1987.
Amount per share 45 cents—Currency conversion 31 March 1987

Copies of the full Interim Report may be obtained from the office of the London Secretaries, 30 Ely Place, London EC1N 6UA

Merger benefits push
Crest Nicholson to £16.6m

THE ENLARGED Crest Nicholson group made a pre-tax profit of £16.6m in the year ended October 31 1986, against an adjusted £12.54m.

A final dividend of 3p gives a net total of 4.75p as forecast on capital increased by a rights issue. Previously, 4.15p was paid.

The group is engaged in property and construction, and commercial and industrial operations. In late 1985 it merged with C. H. Pearce, Bristol-based construction and property group; the 1985-86 results include Pearce for that year, while the comparisons took its year to May 31 1986.

The directors said that in the property and construction division the land supply was most satisfactory for this year and beyond, and further progress had been made with a number of major development proposals which should serve to underpin growth.

Product range of the commercial property business was broadened, and new sites purchased for industrial developments for which there was an increased demand.

In contracting the market was difficult, although there was an adequate supply of work, margins were under intense pressure.

That situation continued, but



Mr David Doune, chairman of Crest Nicholson

the order book was satisfactory and would most benefit 1988. Major emphasis was put on procuring contracts at the right margins.

Turnover in 1985-86 totalled £212m (£168.3m) while the profit comprised £16m (£12.54m) from property and construction and £1.83m (£1.83m) from commercial and industrial operations.

Leasing and unallocated central and finance costs were £1.22m (£1.39m).

Earnings worked through at

15.01p (12.04p) per share. There was an extraordinary debit of £1.2m (£344,000) comprising merger expenses £575,000 and net cost of £668,000 closure and sale of businesses.

● comment

If one could design an ideal company to benefit from the current housing market, one might choose Crest Nicholson. Nearly all its units are in the South East, which is seeing the fastest price rises; it has no landbank which might weigh down its progress or dump it in trouble should the market collapse. For cautious sakes, it is starting to shift out of the top end of the housing market which it currently sees as a bit peaky.

Although its contracting business has had difficulties, Pearce has slotted neatly into the enlarged company. Commercial development is not quite so exciting at the moment but the Working site has now been fully let, after a tenant dropped out earlier in the year. With the group taking more critical look at its peripheral activities, Crest should be able to benefit this year from continued strength in the housing market and pre-tax profits of £20.5m look feasible. The shares at 191p do not seem over-rated on a prospective p/e of 11.

Sigmex in black but
still under pressure

BY PHILIP COGGAN

Sigmex International, electronic systems group, moved back into the black with pre-tax profits for the half year to December 31 of £380,000 following a loss in the second half of last year.

But the directors expected margins to remain under pressure and felt that profitability was unlikely to show signs of significant improvement in the coming months.

The first half turnaround was due to increased sales of specialist software products as demand was for the company's standard hardware proved disappointing. Order books are now three times larger than at the same time last year.

Two major orders, totalling more than £2m, have been won by the French subsidiary, Sigmex SA. They are for the supply of equipment to Electricite de France and for testing equipment for the new rocket booster on the Ariane V space vehicle.

Overseas sales increased to more than 60 per cent of turnover, compared with 46 per cent last year.

Research and development spending is now more than 10 per cent of turnover and the company's 6000 Series of GKS Workstations won a Design Council Award last year.

Operating profit was down to £520,000 from £564,000 in the first half last year on turnover 38 per cent higher at £7.66m (£5.54m). The fall in net interest payable to £154,000 (£221,000) allowed pre-tax profits to rise 11 per cent to £380,000 (£333,000). After a tax charge of £135,000 (£102,000), earnings per share were down to 2.72p (£2.74p).

No interim dividend is being paid. The shares, which were placed on the Unlisted Securities Market at 101p at the end of 1985, closed 2p higher at 80p.

Property sales boost
Alexanders profit to £1m

Alexanders Holdings, Ford main dealer, lifted its pre-tax profit by 51 per cent, from £281,000 to £278,000 in the year ended September 30 1986, on a turnover slightly reduced to £58.1m.

But crediting £60,000 in respect of a gain on the sale of two properties in Edinburgh pushes up this year's total pre-tax to £1m.

In each of the years from 1981 the company allocated a scrip issue equal to 10 per cent. This time it is to pay a cash dividend of 0.71p net.

Since the year-end the company had sold another property in Edinburgh. The money from those sales would have a marked effect on interest charges, the directors stated.

Alexanders Contract Rentals

continued to increase business, and the spare parts and Ford accessories departments were attracting good business in their new locations.

After tax £247,000 (£11,000) earnings for the year came to 1.66p (0.58p adjusted). Tax relative to the property sales was £58,000.

Yearling bonds lower

The interest rate for this week's issue of local authority bonds is 10½ per cent, down ¼ of a percentage point from last week, and compares with 12½ per cent a year ago. The bonds are issued at par and are redeemable on February 24 1988.

A full list of issues will be published in tomorrow's edition.

Ricardo down
at £0.93m

Increased investment and an operating loss at a subsidiary was blamed by Ricardo Consulting Engineers for lower pre-tax profits. And Sir Diarmuid Downes, chairman, said the full-year result was also likely to be lower.

From revenue of £8.55m (£7.79m) pre-tax profit for six months to the end of December 1986 fell from £1.26m to £827,000. Earnings per share came out at 4.28p (5.41p). The interim dividend has been maintained at 1p.

The chairman said that revenue earned from contract and other work had increased during the period but there had been a higher level of spending in strengthening its technical base. The Cussons offshoot had a good order book but the long delivery times of some bought-in items prevented the planned output being achieved resulting in an operating loss, said Sir Diarmuid.

The shares fell by 28p to 136p.

Media Technology shows
profit downturn at midway

Media Technology International, the manufacturer and provider of technically advanced equipment and services to film TV and allied industries, saw pre-tax profit slip back from £1.02m to £916,000 on turnover up from £3.5m to £4.5m in the six months to November 30, 1986.

However, Mr Roger Weston, chairman of the USM-quoted company, said that given the adverse conditions in the UK film industry generally, the board believed that the results were very creditable.

Mr Weston reported that bookings for the TV studio of the wholly-owned subsidiary Joe Dunton Cameras were buoyant. JDC Incorporated was extending its operations in the US from its base in North Carolina which was proving to be one of the fastest-growing film centres in that country. The Mitchell Camera Corporation, which Media Technology International acquired at the

end of 1985, continued its steady development. Lee Filters, Media Technology's subsidiary, had made good progress, with sales and profit ahead of last year—despite absorbing the costs of larger storage facilities.

After tax charges of £331,000 (£398,000), earnings per share worked through at 5.41p—down from 6.12p. An interim payment of 1p (1p) was declared.

HERRBURGER BROOKS (piano actions, keys and hammers) and six months ended November 30 1986, turnover £3.5m (£2.58m). Operating profit £121,000 (£123,000) less interest £57,000 (£23,000), leaving profit £64,000 (£99,000) before tax £22,000 (£45,000). Earnings 3.17p (4.1p) per share.

APPOINTMENTS

Lilley finance director

F. J. C. LILLEY has appointed Mr James Armstrong as group finance director. Mr Armstrong was until December 1986 finance director of the IAT Group.

Successor Mr S. G. Robson, who takes up the newly-created post of group development director which will include the group's secretarial functions.

MORGAN GRENFELL SECURITIES HOLDINGS has recruited two senior executives. They are Mr David Ingles, who will be head of the equity research team for the chemicals sector, and Mr Peter Wilkinson, who will be head of the ADR trading department. Mr Ingles comes from Greenwell Montagu where he was a senior member of the top-ranked chemicals research team. Mr Wilkinson was recruited from Springcourt Vickers, which he joined in 1978, spending the last four years running the ADR trading desk.

Mr Peter Woolmer has been appointed area director of WEST OF ENGLAND FARMERS, the Wiltshire-based farmers co-operative. He was formerly sales and development manager of Kemira UK subsidiary of the Finnish chemical company, Kemira Oy, of Helsinki.

Mr Richard Neal, managing director of Supra Group, has joined the board of EVODE GROUP following the recent acquisition of Supra by EVOde.

Mr Jo Moody has been appointed company secretary and group chief accountant of PRES-SAC HOLDINGS.

Mr Michael Balfour has been designated as director of IMI CAPITAL MARKETS. He was formerly an assistant director of the Bank of England in which capacity he served as an alternate director of the Bank for International Settlements and a member of the EEC Monetary Committee.

Booth Industries as part of its reorganisation policy has redeigned the role of BOOTH ENGINEERING in line with market demands. Mr Michael Stott has been appointed sales director with responsibility for the specialist Booth Defence and Security, together with Booth Doors and Shutters.

BRITANNIA SECURITY GROUP has appointed Mr Kevin P. Watters as group finance director from April 1. He joined the group in November 1986 as finance director of the intruder alarm division.

THE PROPERTY TRUST has appointed Mr R. S. Halabi an executive director.

At CARLTON COMMUNICATIONS Dr Yeswanth Kamath, one of the three founding directors of the California-based sub-

siary, Abekas Video Systems Inc. is to become chief executive officer of both Carlton Electronics and Abekas Video Systems of Reading and Abekas Cox of Feltham, Middlesex, the other subsidiaries within the Carlton Electronics division. Mr Bob Phillips, Carlton's recently appointed group managing director, will be joining the boards of Carlton Electronics and Abekas Video Systems Inc.

Mr Richard C. Smith has been appointed managing director of WORCESTER PARSONS, a subsidiary of McKeeMcme.

PRIVATBank has appointed five executive directors: Mr W. K. Davis, Mr P. Doods, Mr W. M. Lister, Mr I. Rasmussen and Mr K. Tøften Jensen.

Organisational changes have taken place at WOOD BROS. Mr Simon Gilbert has been appointed managing director of Wood Bros (Furniture). The founder, Mr H. W. Wood, becomes president of the Wood Bros Group. The founder's daughter, Mrs Hilary House, becomes chairman and Mr John Morrison becomes company secretary. Mr Gilbert had previously been deputy managing director.

VINE PRODUCTS & WHITEWAYS has appointed Mr Chris Shaw as chief accountant, its finance director.

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange. Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the ordinary share capital of Dwek Group PLC to be issued in connection with the acquisition referred to below to be admitted to the Official List.



DWEK GROUP PLC

(Incorporated in England under the Companies Act 1948 with registered number 610159)

following the acquisition
of Symphony International Limited

Placing by
Williams de Broë Hill Chaplin & Company Limited
of 6,857,143 Ordinary Shares of 10p each at 105p per share
payable in full on application

SHARE CAPITAL
Authorised £2,500,000
Ordinary Shares of 10p each
Issued and fully paid £1,746,262

BUSINESS

Dwek Group PLC ("Dwek") is the holding company for a number of subsidiaries engaged in the manufacture and distribution of consumer products. Symphony International Limited ("Symphony") is a leading importer and distributor of handbags, travel goods and allied products to wholesale, retail and multiple businesses and has developed franchise and "shop within shop" operations with some of its major retail customers.

ACQUISITION AND PLACING

The consideration for the acquisition by Dwek of Symphony is £9.5 million, to be satisfied by the issue of 9,017,619 Ordinary Shares of 10p each in Dwek. 6,857,143 of such shares are the subject of a placing at 105p per share to realise for the vendors of Symphony £7.2 million. 5,432,143 Ordinary Shares are being placed by Williams de Broë Hill Chaplin & Company Limited, stockbrokers and financial advisers to Dwek, and 1,425,000 Ordinary Shares are being placed by Allied Provincial Limited, secondary distributors to the issue. It is expected that dealings will commence on 23rd February, 1987.

PARTICULARS

Listing Particulars relating to Dwek, following its acquisition of Symphony, are available in the Extel Statistical Services and copies of the Listing Particulars may be obtained during normal business hours up to and including 20th February, 1987 from the Company Announcements Office of The Stock Exchange and on any weekday (excluding Saturdays and public holidays) up to and including 4th March, 1987 from the Company's registered offices at 15 Manchester Square, London W1M 5AE and from:—

Williams de Broë Hill Chaplin & Company Limited
37 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9LL
25 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9FE
18th February, 1987

Pinners Hall,
Austin Friars,
London EC2P 2HS

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the regulations of the Council of The Stock Exchange. Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the grant of permission to deal in the Company's Ordinary shares in the Unlisted Securities Market. It is emphasised that no application has been made for these securities to be admitted to listing.

PRISM LEISURE CORPORATION PLC

(Incorporated in England under the Companies Act 1948 to 1976 Company No: 1522326)

Placing by
NATIONAL INVESTMENT GROUP PLC
of 1,060,000 Ordinary Shares of 10p each at 120p per share

Share Capital
Authorised £480,000
Ordinary Shares of 10p each
Issued and now being issued fully paid or credited as fully paid £353,058.80

The principal activities of the Company are the wholesaling, distribution, marketing and licensing of computer games software, pre-recorded cassettes and records.

Full particulars of the Company are available through the Extel Unlisted Securities Market Service. Copies of the Prospectus and of Extel Cards can be obtained until 27th February 1987.

from:—

NATIONAL INVESTMENT GROUP PLC
Holland House
1-4 Bury Street
London EC3A 5AT

Godfray Derby & Co
Penniless Porch
Market Place
Wells BA5 2RL

Hanson & Co
Auckland House
108 Thorne Road
Doncaster DN2 5BA

Hanson & Co
The Chambers
53 Guildhall Street
Preston PR1 3NU

Lyddon
113 Bute Street
Cardiff
CF1 1QS

Hillman Catford Board
45 St Nicholas Street
Bristol
BS1 1TX

Margetts & Addenbrooke
York House
38 Great Charles Street
Birmingham B3 3JU

Milton Mortimer & Co
21 Southernhay West
Exeter
EX1 1PR

Richardson Chubb
Love Rogers
5 High West Street
Dorchester DT1 1UJ

County Bisgood Limited, Henderson White Jenkins Limited and Smith New Court PLC have indicated that they intend to register as market makers in Prism Leisure Corporation PLC. It is anticipated that dealings will commence on 24th February 1987.

MEDIOCREDITO CENTRALE

ISTITUTO PER IL CREDITO A MEDIO TERMINE

ECU 100,000,000

EXPORT FINANCE CREDIT FACILITY

ARRANGED AND PROVIDED BY

BANCO DI ROMA INTERNATIONAL S.A.



OCTOBER 1986

NORWAY'S
COMMERCIAL BANK

Union Bank of Norway is one of the four leading Norwegian banks. We provide a complete range of banking and financial services to domestic and foreign clients in service, hi-tech and heavy industries. These include loan and overdraft facilities, money transfers, foreign exchange, securities trading and custodial services both for companies and for individuals. Our treasury capability includes fully automated cash-management and on-line information systems linking direct to the customer's own computer.

Please contact Terje D. Skullerud in Norway. Tel: (472) 31 90 50. Telex: 19470 UBN BK. Union Bank of Norway is known domestically as ABC bank.

Also with subsidiary in Luxembourg and Representative offices in Copenhagen, Helsinki, London, New York and Stockholm.

A/B/C
Union Bank of Norway

FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Shield Assurance Ltd

مکتبہ اہل حق

J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co Ltd Washington (see *Marine (Firm of Men) Ltd*)

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	12/27/94	12/28/94	% Chg
D-3	2457.14	+0.0050	2.0
D-Mars	2457.14	+0.0050	2.0
Gras Franc	5F44 496.9	+0.0023	1.0
Japanese yen	¥517.1329	+0.5056	3.17

Money Market

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453.7	Amstarfund S	ASST1 8113	+0.0088	15.43
1.00	Carroll S	CS21.8850	+0.0032	6.04
0.10	Eco	EcolQ 4143	+0.0012	6.27
0.0	USS Managed	USS 8195 26.618	+0.0722	12.57

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International Bond Trst.	-0.50	30 My Road, EC1Y 2AY.		
Inver Growth Fund	0.35	Treasury Az	10.25	7 bb
		Mortgage 1000-25000	10.00	7 ab

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081. Tokyo Pacific Hldgs. (Seaboard) NV
Int'l Management Co NV, Cayman
Money Market Plus.....Top rate 7.65 11.17 Mth
For other rates please contact our RateLine 02-582 0629
Co-operative Bank Cheque & Save

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1.85	T-6 Mortgage	\$510.40	...	4) Lethbrary, London, EC2P 2BP	01.256	9.033	
9.10	T-6 Overins	\$22.04	...	\$2,000 to £9,999	7.625	11.05	6.5
5.12	T-6 Pacific	\$14.43	...	\$10,000 and above	10.375	7.75	11.24
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Star Fund 3	44.9	152.6	114 Newgate St, London EC1A 7AE	01-406 9485
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NOTES: Gross rate to those outside from composite rate of

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	BSR	11	Racal Electr	15
Unitronics JDA88 16	BTR	26	RHM	24
Unitrak JDA88 64	S-bruck	14		

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N.American Fund	086	1.78	-	Lloyds Bank	38	Ultramar	17
Pacific Fund	094	1.57	+0.013	Lucas Inds.	46	Milnes	
The Kingdom Fund	151	1.217	+0.010	Wm. F. Sweeney	19	East-Grid	153
U.S. Fund		0.970					

COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

US to fight 'outrageous' EEC oils tax proposal

BY LIONEL BARBER IN WASHINGTON AND DAVID OWEN IN CHICAGO

THE US is about to launch a big lobbying effort to block the EEC's proposed new oil and fats tax, which threatens to hurt the American soyabean industry.

Mr Richard Lyng, US Secretary of Agriculture, has already called the planned tax "outrageous" and US officials in Washington said he would probably raise the matter with the EEC's agriculture commissioner Mr Frans Andriessen during a conference both were attending in San Diego, California, yesterday.

The prospective row comes shortly after a serious transatlantic trade dispute over the effects of EEC enlargement on US farm exports was averted at a last minute compromise last month.

US trade officials yesterday said that Mr Lyng was leading the opposition to the oil and fats tax which has still to be approved by the EEC Council of Ministers.

Diplomats in Washington forecast a bitter fight over the tax, even though it had surfaced in previous trade disputes in 1964, 1976 and

latterly in 1983. "The last time they sent an army of lobbyists round the capitals of Europe," said one diplomat, pointing out that US soyabean oil and beans represent the country's biggest agricultural export to the EEC.

The US is likely to draw comfort however from the fact that EEC members themselves are divided over the tax. The British—who voiced their opposition through a statement by Sir Geoffrey Howe in Brussels yesterday—reckon they have the West Germans, the Dutch and the Danes on their side.

Chicago traders were generally dismissive about the proposed tax's implications on the grounds that "no one believes that it will happen."

"With the EEC you tend to wait until you see the whites of their eyes," observed one trader on Geldermann's soyabean desk.

Even if the tax is implemented as proposed, traders feel that consumers are likely to bear the increased prices without any concomitant reduction in demand. Demand is relatively inelastic, said Mr

Steve Freed of Dean Witter Reynolds. "They are taxing the retailer, not the crusher," he added.

While prices on the Chicago Board of Trade's Soyabean complex have slipped lower in recent days, particularly in the longer months, traders attribute this primarily to concern over future US Government policy. "The commission houses have been playing the November spread on the expectation that the Government may lower the soyabean loan rate," one trader explained.

The American Soyabean Association was less sanguine about the EEC plan, however. "This tax is like paying the farmer's neck," said Mr Dave Haggard, president of the farm lobby group, which represents nearly all US soyabean farmers. "And the worst part of it," he added, "is that US farmers would be the ones paying the tax."

He estimated that about \$2.3bn would be generated by the tax, which would go to pay heavy subsidies to European oilseed producers.

Coffee prices at 18-month lows

By Richard Mooney

LONDON COFFEE futures prices fell to the lowest levels since July 1985 yesterday as speculators continued to flood out of the market. The May position touched \$1,460 a tonne before ending the day \$42 down at \$1,418 a tonne. That extended the decline over the last three trading days to \$90 a tonne.

Dealers said yesterday's falls were prompted by liquidation of long positions which in turn triggered the operation of stop-loss selling orders and fresh speculative sales.

The coffee market has been under pressure for some time but the latest bout of selling accelerated after confirmation at the weekend that the Brazilian coffee industry was planning to sell the stock it built up in Europe last autumn in an abortive attempt to prop up the market.

The fall has taken prices well below the level at which the International Coffee Organisation's export quota system suspended a year ago when prices were about \$700 above the current level—should have come back into force. But negotiations on quota shares have yet to start in earnest and traders expect the present free-for-all to be continued for some time.

News that Brazil had closed April export registrations was described by dealers yesterday as "mildly constructive" but it appeared to have little impact on market sentiment.

WEEKLY METALS

All prices as supplied by Metal Bulletin (last week's prices in brackets).

ANTIMONY: European free market, 99.6 per cent, \$ per tonne, in warehouse, 2,300-2,340 (same).

BISMUTH: European free market, 99.99 per cent, \$ per lb, in warehouse, 1.50-1.55 (1.50-1.55).

CADMIUM: European free market, min. 99.95 per cent, \$ per lb, in warehouse, 1.90-1.95 (1.90-1.95).

COBALT: European free market, 99.5 per cent, \$ per lb, in warehouse, 6.15-6.35 (same).

MERCURY: European free market, 99.99 per cent, \$ per lb, in warehouse, 175-180 (175-180).

MOLYBDENUM: European free market, drummed molybdenum oxide, \$ per lb Mo, in warehouse, 3.08-3.12 (same).

SELENIUM: European free market, min. 99.5 per cent, \$ per lb, in warehouse, 4.40-5.00 (4.40-5.00).

TUNGSTEN ORE: European free market, standard min. 65 per cent, \$ per tonne unit WO₃, 90-100 (90-100).

VANADIUM: European free market, min. 95 per cent VO, other sources, \$ per lb VO, cif, 2.49-2.53 (same).

URANIUM: Nuxeo exchange value, \$ per lb UO₂, 16.85 (same).

Aluminium supplies squeezed

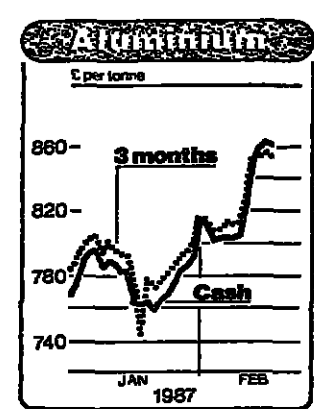
BY STEFAN WAGSTYL

ALUMINIUM PRICES climbed to a new 20-month peak in sterling and a 32-month peak in US dollars yesterday before falling back as investors took profits.

However traders said that supplies in the market for immediate delivery were still short so cash metal maintained its premium over aluminium for three months delivery.

On the London Metal Exchange, three-month metal reached a peak of \$871.50 a tonne, the highest since early 1985. The US dollar equivalent was \$1319 a tonne, the highest since early 1984. At the close the price was \$853.75 a tonne and a 27.5 discount to metal for immediate delivery.

Traders blame the shortages of supplies for immediate delivery on the LME partly on technical factors. The market trades metal of 99.5 per cent purity when the most common grade in the physical trade is 99.7 per cent, so artificial shortages arise. The LME had to put this right by introducing a 99.7 per cent purity contract in May when it reforms its



trading rules to include a clearing house.

Dealers also say that short-comings in the control of the growing options market exacerbate the difficulties. Some argue that the fact that there are only five days between the time an option is declared (that is the time from when it can be exercised) and the time it expires (after which it cannot be exercised) produces artificial

runs on metal. Again the LME plans to rectify this in May by extending the critical period to 14 days.

Some market analysts believe that prices could fall sharply once the technical reasons for shortages are removed. But others say the balance between supply and demand is sufficiently close to maintain prices at current levels.

Yesterday, Mr David Morton, president and chief operating officer of Alcan, the Western world's largest producer, lent support to their argument. He told an investment conference in London that aluminium prices should sustain recent increases or improve further given a forecast rise in economic growth in Western countries.

Mr Morton said that smelting capacity of 1.5m tonnes, or more than 10 per cent the Western world total, had been closed in the US and Japan in the last two years. Up to 250,000 tonnes more could be closed this year. These closures had only been partly offset by new capacity which totalled 700,000 tonnes.

Hong Kong gold demand 'picking up'

DEMAND FOR gold appears to be picking up in Hong Kong after a year when investors, lured by a booming stock market, turned away from the metal, gold dealers said, reports Reuters from Hong Kong.

Census and Statistics Department figures put net bullion accumulation at just 1.1 tonnes in 1986 against 141.4 tonnes the previous year, but dealers said that since January the metal has been enjoying a recovery.

Mr Daniel Sitt, director of Samuel Montagu (Hong Kong),

said his company was among those placing orders for bullion from abroad.

He said there was large demand for physical gold from local investors, attracted by prices of around 7.5 per cent down from the 1986 high.

"Chinese investors are building up their stockpile after taking profits at the highs," he said, adding that he expected gold to rise to US\$400 a troy ounce, "if people pull out of the stocks and go back to the metal."

Mr Victor Lam, managing director of Shearson Lehman Brothers Bullion (Asia), said bullion is now trading in Hong Kong at a premium to world markets of US\$1.5 an ounce.

Last year it traded at a discount of about \$2.

Fears of US inflation stemming from a declining dollar are attracting new buyers, Lam added, but he expressed caution about the prospect of a gold price surge this year unless the equity market turned around or peaked.

Agriculture goes on to the back burner

"AND ROW John, as a farmer, do you intend coping with this situation in your own farming?" the editor asked.

The "situation" was heralded last week by statements in Parliament and at the National Farmers' Union annual meeting by Mr Michael Jopling, the British Agriculture Minister. The gist of his message was that the growth in farming output was to go into reverse. Digging for victory was no longer the object of the exercise, in future "disinflation" was to be the order of the day.

As a corollary to this we farmers are being urged to encourage a revival of rural industry. At an NFU "any questions" session Mr John Gummer, Mr Jopling's number two, told us that rural crafts were essential to attract employment for those made redundant to the needs of agriculture.

It is worth looking at this point first. Rural employment at the turn of the century was largely concerned with the support of farming and of the country population. Blacksmiths still made most of the cultivation machinery, saddlers wheelwrights and a whole host of artisans were needed. Village shops abounded as transport to towns was difficult and expensive. Every village had its bakers. It is difficult to imagine a return to anything like that situation.

Movement out of farming had its origins in the Industrial Revolution and coincided with the decline in farming's fortunes since the end of the Napoleonic wars. A simple statistic illustrates this. The price of wheat in 1812 was about \$30 per tonne. By the middle of the 19th century it had fallen to less than half of that. It had halved again by the end of the century to about \$6 per tonne and, except for the period of the first world war, remained about that level through to the 1930s.



By John Cherrington

In farmer's eyes at least most of this catastrophic fall was due to Government action: the repeal of the corn laws in the 1840s, which opened the way to unrestricted grain imports from the new world; the abolition of the Corn Production Act at short notice in 1921. The first sign of a revival in farm support came when a wheat quota was introduced about 1930.

I had been well briefed on this aspect of British farming history, and when the last war ended fully expected another slump. I was a tenant farmer then, but running against the conventional wisdom of the time instead of continuing as such, I took advantage of some low land prices and bought my own farm on long-term mortgages at very low interest. It is usually better to disregard conventional wisdom.

Membership of the EEC brought a spell of unprecedented prosperity to those of us well established at low land costs. Most of us thought the open-ended guarantees could not last, and like myself took the opportunity to build up our reserves to keep our stock in trade up to date and generally prepare for the expected crash. Obviously land which will grow high value crops like potatoes would stand a far higher degree of investment than would thinner land which would only grow barley.

There is nothing very fixed about fixed costs. At the time of the Napoleonic wars land was selling for about £100 an acre in this part of Hampshire. It was half that in 1860, and never rose to that figure again for a century. In the 1930s it was worth about £15 an acre. Its economic worth at present depends on the interest rate and perhaps £400 an acre, but I would want a farmer guarantee more of the work themselves. It is hard to be specific as to the number to be employed, but it should be tied to the production of the operation.

Obviously land which will grow high value crops like potatoes would stand a far higher degree of investment than would thinner land which would only grow barley.

In his proposals for a set-aside of acreage Mr Jopling is insisting on a voluntary regime while the NFU is demanding a compulsory one so that the

impact could be the same on everyone. Mr Jopling's aim is to squeeze out the more marginal areas as he calls them. But as a farmer of largely class 3 arable land I see no reason why those on better land, who would have a yield advantage anyway, should be able to put all their acreage in grain without limit.

Compulsory quotas are in fact being demanded by almost every one who feels threatened. Sheep men claim that arable farmers under a per threat could easily keep more sheep, so could dairymen with spare land. In fact farming could soon become a frenetic race of anxious farmers looking for alternative opportunities.

There are undoubtedly some about. But one should be warned by the example of New Zealand where there has been a dramatic expansion into deer farming, goats for mohair, other goats for cashmere, ferrets for the fur trade, kiwi fruit and many others. These have been characterised by very high prices paid for the initial breeding stock which have made the innovators most successful. But once the demand for breeding stock becomes satisfied and commercial values subsidise, things can become very difficult.

I doubt very much if the British Government's new scheme for opening the bulk of farming land to exploitation of all sorts will come to much. A wholesale lifting of planning controls might enable some to protect their asset values, but it would be of no use to tenants. Nor do I think there will be much benefit to us in disincentivising our farming in search of a sort of 19th century golden age of rustic simplicity which never really existed.

To answer the editors question, I will content myself with squeezing every cost to the bone, and investing nothing until I have a better idea what the future holds. It could be a long wait.

LONDON MARKETS

GOLD PRICES slipped \$2 to \$395.25 an ounce in London yesterday as investors' interest in precious metals continued to wane under the influence of the apparently relentless rise in the major stockmarkets. Traders say there is little prospect of a rally to match last year's without fresh news in the market. The impetus provided by large Japanese official purchases which in 1986 is missing. Platinum prices eased in sympathy. On the London Metal Exchange, nickel prices which rose on Monday on news that Inco had sold out of stock for first quarter delivery, climbed further. There were also rumours that shipments from the Soviet Union were being delayed. Metal for immediate delivery closed up \$27.50 a tonne at \$2,460.

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INDICES

REUTERS
Feb. 18 Feb. 13 Mth ago Year ago
Fut. 115.00 115.25 115.50 115.75
(Base: September 18 1981=100)

DOW JONES
Dow J. Feb. 18 Feb. 13 Mth ago Year ago
Spot 114.18 114.08 114.08 114.08
Fut. 114.18 114.08 114.08 114.08
(Base: December 31 1981=100)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Feb. 17 + or - Month
1987 - ago

METALS
Aluminium 1418.40 +40 928.25
Copper 154.40 +0.5 85.75
Gold 395.25 -2 395.25
Lead 238.50 -0.5 85.12
Nickel 171.50 +0.5 110.75
Platinum 1110.00 -0.5 1110.00
Silver 15.12 -0.02 85.40
Tin 185.50 -0.5 85.40
Zinc 142.40 -0.5 85.40

GRAINS
Barley Fut. Mar. 18 115.00 -0.06 115.00
Wheat Fut. Mar. 18 115.00 -0.06 115.00
Soyabean Mar. 18 115.00 -0.06 115.00

COFFEE
Brazilian coffee offered at very low prices. The market led to heavy liquidation in London. Price-falls were easily sustained and prices closed just off the lows.

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US MARKETS

EARLY EASING of the US dollar prompted short-covering in gold futures, reports Draxler Burroughs, Lambert. However, as the dollar strengthened, trade and fund pushed values through initial support at \$395.00, basis April, touching minor stops before support emerged at the lows. Silver futures also featured short-covering and trade sold-down support but as the gold fell, trade and fund selling emerged to depress prices. Platinum and copper tended to follow gold, but trade support was evident in platinum futures. Crude oil futures remained on the defensive for much of the day, with light fund and local selling sufficient to overcome trade buying.

A combination of the threat of overhead cover and heavy fundamentals was sufficient to prompt trade long-liquidation and speculative selling in coffee futures which broke technical support, touching off commission houses as the market slumped sharply. Early trade and commission house buying in sugar features uncovered good producer selling which was sufficient to reverse the market as local and overseas house liquidation set in. However, trade support emerged between 7.70C and 7.50C, basis April.

Cattle futures moved to limit on following the publication of what was interpreted as a bullish cattle-on-feed report. In addition, large shipments from feed yards forced cattle slaughterers to pay higher prices than the local, which fuelled the advance. Pork bellies rallied in sympathy with the cattle. Purchases of wheat by China rallied wheat futures, whilst short-covering and farmer premiums in maize futures also pushed values higher. Nearby strength in the soyabean futures also helped to steady nearby contracts of soyabean, but the deferred months were weak in comparison.

CHICAGO
LIVE CATTLE 40,000 lbs. cents/lb
Feb. 18 84.00 83.75 84.00 83.75
Mar. 18 84.00 83.75 84.00 83.75
Apr. 18 84.00 83.75 84.00 83.75
May 18 84.00 83.75 84.00 83.75
Jun. 18 84.00 83.75 84.00 83.75
Jul. 18 84.00 83.75 84.00 83.75
Aug. 18 84.00 83.75 84.00 83.75
Sep. 18 84.00 83.75 84.00 83.75
Oct. 18 84.00 83.75 84.00 83.75
Nov. 18 84.00 83.75 84.00 83.75
Dec. 18 84.00 83.75 84.00 83.75

CHICAGO
LIVE HOGS 30,000 lbs. cents/lb
Feb. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
Mar. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
Apr. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
May 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
Jun. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
Jul. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
Aug. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
Sep. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
Oct. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
Nov. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
Dec. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75

CHICAGO
PORK BELIES 38,000 lbs. cents/lb
Feb. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
Mar. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
Apr. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
May 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
Jun. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
Jul. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
Aug. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
Sep. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
Oct. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
Nov. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75
Dec. 18 61.00 60.75 61.00 60.75

CHICAGO
MAIZE 5,000 bu. min. cents/56 lb bushel
Feb. 18 142.00 141.75 142.00 141.75
Mar. 18 142.00 141.75 142.00 141.75
Apr. 18 142.00 141.75 142.00 141.75
May 18 142.00 141.75 142.00 141.75
Jun. 18 142.00 141.75 142.00 141.75
Jul. 18 142.00 141.75 142.00 141.75
Aug.

CURRENCIES, MONEY & CAPITAL MARKETS

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Dollar quiet but weak

THE DOLLAR continued to drift, locked in a narrow range. Trading was quiet with dealers waiting for tomorrow's important economic events. Fourth quarter US Gross National Product, growth is expected to be revised up to 2 per cent from the figure of 1.7 per cent published last month. Traders will also listen carefully to the speech by the US Congress of Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, for any hint of tighter US credit policy, after a rise to over 6 per cent in the Federal funds rate. Also tomorrow Mr James Baker, US Treasury Secretary, will address Congress, and the market will look for any signs of disagreement between the Reagan Administration and the US central bank.

A rise to 7.5 per cent in January, US capacity utilisation, from a revised 73.5 in December, was much a forecast, and had no impact. The dollar fell to DM1.8140 from DM1.8220, to FF6.0450 from FF6.0750, to SF1.5310 from SF1.5400, and to Y234.75 from Y235.25.

On Bank of England figures the dollar index fell 0.4 to 103.6. Sterling-Trading range against the dollar in 1986-87 is 1.5555 to 1.7000, January average 1.6071. Exchange rate of sterling to dollar is 1.6071, compared with 1.717 six months ago.

Sterling benefited from some encouraging news, including a slight firming of North Sea oil prices on forecasts of cold weather. The latest opinion poll gave the Conservative Party a lead of two points over Labour, and the prospect for the Government were boosted by a large repayment.

£ IN NEW YORK

Feb 17	Latest	Previous
£100/\$100	1.5300-1.5310	1.5290-1.5300
1 month	1.5300-1.5310	1.5290-1.5300
3 months	1.5300-1.5310	1.5290-1.5300
6 months	1.5300-1.5310	1.5290-1.5300
12 months	1.5300-1.5310	1.5290-1.5300

Forward premiums and discounts apply to the US dollar.

STERLING INDEX

Feb 17	Latest	Previous
3.30 am	68.9	68.9
9.00 am	68.9	68.9
11.00 am	68.9	68.9
1.00 pm	68.9	68.9
2.00 pm	68.9	68.9
3.00 pm	68.9	68.9
4.00 pm	68.9	68.9

CURRENCY RATES

Feb 17	Bank	Rate	Source
£100/\$100	1.5300	1.5300	1.5300
£100/DM100	1.8140	1.8140	1.8140
£100/FF100	6.0450	6.0450	6.0450
£100/SF100	1.5310	1.5310	1.5310
£100/Y100	234.75	234.75	234.75

CURRENCY MOVEMENTS

February 17	Bank of England	Change
£100/\$100	1.5300	-0.0010
£100/DM100	1.8140	-0.0010
£100/FF100	6.0450	-0.0010
£100/SF100	1.5310	-0.0010
£100/Y100	234.75	-0.0010

OTHER CURRENCIES

Feb 17	£	\$
Argentina	21170-21240	13800-13840
Brazil	21170-21240	13800-13840
Canada	1.3200-1.3210	1.3200-1.3210
France	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460
Germany	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150
Italy	1.3600-1.3610	1.3600-1.3610
Japan	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85
Spain	166.60-166.70	166.60-166.70
Sweden	1.3600-1.3610	1.3600-1.3610
Switzerland	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320
UK	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310

MONEY MARKETS

London rates slightly easier

INTEREST RATES were slightly easier where changed in the London money market yesterday. Longer rates tended to reflect continued market optimism about the possibility of a cut in interest rates around the time of next month's budget. However three-month interbank was unchanged at 10.1-10.2 per cent. Overnight money opened at 11.1-11.2 per cent and spent most of the morning at 11.1-11.2 per cent. Rates touched a low of 9.5 per cent after the Bank of England had given more help than the published forecast but demand

UK clearing bank base

lending rate 11 per cent since October 15

soon pushed the rate up to 11 per cent towards the close. The Bank of England forecast a shortage of around £400m in the market affecting the market including maturing assistance and a take up of Treasury bills together draining £60m and banks' balances brought forward £80m below target. These were partly offset by Exchange Transfer, which added £250m and a fall in the note circulation of £20m. The bank gave assistance of £20m in the morning which comprised outright purchases of £2m of Treasury bills and £18m of

ment of £2.7bn in the January UK Public Sector Borrowing Requirement. A large repayment figure had been widely forecast, because of high seasonal tax revenue, but the January surplus was towards the top end of expectations, increasing hopes of a cut in income tax rates in next month's Budget.

The pound gained 1.30 cents to \$1.5300-1.5310, and improved to DM 1.8140 from DM 1.8150. The yen fell to Y234.75 from Y235.25, and the Swiss franc to SF1.5310 from SF1.5400, and to Y234.75 from Y235.25.

D-MARK-Trading range against the dollar in 1986-87 is 1.7170 to 1.8555, January average 1.7871. Exchange rate of dollar to DM is 1.7871, compared with 1.817 six months ago.

EMS EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES

Unit	Current	Change	% change
Belgian Franc	42.4582	+0.0010	+0.0024
Dutch Guilder	2.3636	+0.0001	+0.0042
French Franc	6.5596	+0.0001	+0.0015
Italian Lira	1.3600	+0.0001	+0.0074
Spanish Peseta	166.60	+0.0001	+0.0006
Portuguese Escudo	200.48	+0.0001	+0.0005
Irish Punt	7.8756	+0.0001	+0.0013
Greek Drachma	340.75	+0.0001	+0.0003
Swedish Krona	1.3600	+0.0001	+0.0074
Swiss Franc	1.5310	+0.0001	+0.0065
Yen	234.75	+0.0001	+0.0004

DOLLAR SPOT—FORWARD AGAINST THE DOLLAR

Feb 17	Day's	Close	One month	Three months	Six months	One year
US	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	0.54-0.56	0.54-0.56	0.54-0.56	0.54-0.56
Canada	2.0324-2.0348	2.0324-2.0348	0.62-0.64	0.62-0.64	0.62-0.64	0.62-0.64
UK	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	0.54-0.56	0.54-0.56	0.54-0.56	0.54-0.56
France	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01
Germany	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01
Italy	1.3600-1.3610	1.3600-1.3610	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01
Japan	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01
Spain	166.60-166.70	166.60-166.70	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01
Sweden	1.3600-1.3610	1.3600-1.3610	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01
Switzerland	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01

DOLLAR SPOT—FORWARD AGAINST THE DOLLAR

Feb 17	Day's	Close	One month	Three months	Six months	One year
US	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	0.54-0.56	0.54-0.56	0.54-0.56	0.54-0.56
Canada	2.0324-2.0348	2.0324-2.0348	0.62-0.64	0.62-0.64	0.62-0.64	0.62-0.64
UK	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	0.54-0.56	0.54-0.56	0.54-0.56	0.54-0.56
France	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01
Germany	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01
Italy	1.3600-1.3610	1.3600-1.3610	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01
Japan	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01
Spain	166.60-166.70	166.60-166.70	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01
Sweden	1.3600-1.3610	1.3600-1.3610	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01
Switzerland	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01

EURO CURRENCY INTEREST RATES

Feb 17	Short	7 days	One month	Three months	Six months	One year
£100/\$100	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	0.54-0.56	0.54-0.56	0.54-0.56	0.54-0.56
£100/DM100	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01
£100/FF100	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01
£100/SF100	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01
£100/Y100	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01	0.00-0.01

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

Feb 17	£	\$	DM	FF	SF	Y	Other
£100/\$100	1.5300	1.5300	1.8140	6.0450	1.5310	234.75	
£100/DM100	1.8140	1.8140	1.8140	6.0450	1.5310	234.75	
£100/FF100	6.0450	6.0450	6.0450	6.0450	1.5310	234.75	
£100/SF100	1.5310	1.5310	1.5310	1.5310	1.5310	234.75	
£100/Y100	234.75	234.75	234.75	234.75	234.75	234.75	

FT LONDON INTERBANK FIXING

Feb 17	6 months	12 months	18 months	24 months	36 months	48 months	60 months
£100/\$100	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310
£100/DM100	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150
£100/FF100	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460
£100/SF100	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320
£100/Y100	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85

MONEY RATES

Feb 17	Overnight	One month	Three months	Six months	One year	London
£100/\$100	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310
£100/DM100	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150
£100/FF100	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460
£100/SF100	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320
£100/Y100	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85

LONDON MONEY RATES

Feb 17	Overnight	7 days	One month	Three months	Six months	One year
£100/\$100	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310
£100/DM100	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150
£100/FF100	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460
£100/SF100	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320
£100/Y100	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85

LONDON MONEY RATES

Feb 17	Overnight	7 days	One month	Three months	Six months	One year
£100/\$100	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310
£100/DM100	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150
£100/FF100	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460
£100/SF100	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320
£100/Y100	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85

LONDON MONEY RATES

Feb 17	Overnight	7 days	One month	Three months	Six months	One year
£100/\$100	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310
£100/DM100	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150
£100/FF100	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460
£100/SF100	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320
£100/Y100	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85	234.75-234.85

LONDON MONEY RATES

Feb 17	Overnight	7 days	One month	Three months	Six months	One year
£100/\$100	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310	1.5300-1.5310
£100/DM100	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150	1.8140-1.8150
£100/FF100	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460	6.0450-6.0460
£100/SF100	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.5310-1.5320	1.53	

ENGINEERING—Continued

INDUSTRIALS—Continued

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

REMARKS:

[illegible]

CANADA

[illegible]**NEW YORK-DOW JONES**

	Feb 17	Feb 18	Feb 19	Feb 20	Feb 21	Feb 22	1986/87		Since Completion			Feb. 17	Feb. 18	Feb. 19	Feb. 20	High	1986/87	
							High	Low	High	Low							1986/87	Low
Indonesia	2,237.49	(a)	2,183.25	2,165.78	2,171.36	2,158.04	2,281.48	602.28	2,281.48	41.22	AUSTRALIA							
							924.19	221.08	924.19		Al Ord. (1/1/80)	1573.2	1575.9	1576.5	1574.8	1576.9/15/2/87	10,110.8	(2/1/80)
Transport	948.08	(a)	922.38	918.05	915.21	907.82	924.19	636.57	924.18	12.32	Metals & Minn. (1/1/80)	750.5	757.5	762.5	770.2	766.5 (20/1/87)	481,125/1/81	
Utilities	228.82	(a)	228.75	218.14	221.38	221.50	227.83	169.47	227.83	10.75	AUSTRIA							
							227.83	169.47	227.83		Greditakt Aktien (30/12/84)	282.14	301.51	290.57	290.57	295.84 (28/4)	230.37 (12/2/87)	
Trading vol	-	-	(84.33- u)	200.33u	172.82u	168.23u	-	-	-	94.52	BELGIUM							
											Brussels SE (1/1/84)	4168.55	4142.21	4115.35	4062.90	4088.25 (17/2/87)	2788.51 (15/1/87)	
											DENMARK							
											Copenhagen SE (1/1/80)	(a)	205.11	205.69	206.51	205.70 (18/4)	168.28	(1/1)
											FINLAND							
											Unitas Genl. (18/78)	447.5	456.5	445.5	443.5	462.1 (1/1/87)	558.5	(2/1/87)
											FRANCE							
											CAC General (5/11/82)	418.4	421.1	419.2	417.2	425.7 (29/1/87)	387.8	(2/1/87)
											Ind tendence (5/12/85)	(a)	104.5	106.1	105.9	108.4 (27/1/87)	97.8	(2/1/87)
Ind Div Yield %											GERMANY							
											FAZ Aktien (5/11/82)	565.56	581.92	585.82	582.97	753.98 (17/4)	555.65 (5/2/87)	
											Commerzbank (1/12/80)	1702.5	1745.8	1761.1	1765.49	2275.8	1677.5/5/2/87	
											HONG KONG							
											Hang Seng Bank (3/7/84)	2782.08	2768.98	2746.48	2764.72	2792.08 (7/9/87)	1658.94	(18/1/87)
											ITALY							
											Banco Comm. Ital. (1875)	651.46	659.72	662.40	661.76	669.28 (20/6)	654.37 (34/1/87)	
											JAPAN**							
											Nikkei (16/4/80)	18857.8	18851.5	18828.27	18874.39	20572.12 (2/87)	22581.8/1/1/1/87	
											Tokyo SE New (4/1/88)	1718.57	1888.75	1718.55	1746.48	1765.07 (3/87)	1000.45 (1/1/87)	
											NETHERLANDS							
											ANP-FS General (1870)	261.2	268.5	261.2	272.90	301.9 (5/2)	240.5	(5/2)
											ANP-FS Indust (1870)	246.7	245.9	246.1	247.80	265.9 (10/8)	264.0	(5/2)
											NORWAY							
											Oslo SE (4/1/86)	578.57	576.74	572.7	575.40	442.91 (16/1/88)	551.6	(4/1)
											SINGAPORE							
											Strait Times (10/12/86)	1017.70	1027.05	1018.52	1012.88	1027.05 (16/2/87)	965.34	(28/1/87)
											SOUTH AFRICA							
											JSE Gold (28/1/78)	-	1879.8	(a)	1951.8	2121.0/15/1/87	1110.1	(2/1/87)
											JSE Index (20/3/78)	-	1847.0	(a)	1844.0	1847.0/5/2/87	1708.2	(2/1/87)

STANDARD AND POORS						RISER AND FALLS							
	Feb 17	Feb 18	Feb 19	Feb 20	Feb 21	1987		Since Completion			Feb 13	Feb 12	Feb 11
						High	Low	High	Low				
Indonesia	224.81	(a)	317.48	294.84	315.89	310.88	312.88	224.48	317.88	3.82			
						(8/2/87)	(8/2/87)	(2/1/87)	(2/1/87)				
Composite	288.48	(a)	278.79	278.94	277.54	275.91	281.16	283.48	281.15	4.48			
						(8/2/87)	(2/71)	(5/2/87)	(1/1/82)				

Nasdaq national market, closing prices

[illegible][illegible]

TOKYO — Most Active Stocks				LONDON — Most Active Stocks			
Tuesday, February 17, 1987				Tuesday, February 17, 1987			
	Stocks Traded	Closing Price	Change on Day		Stocks Traded	Closing Price	Change on Day
Kobe Steel	144,826	281	+ 14	Nippon Zinc	20,818	675	+ 1
Yazaki	142,348	285	+ 5	Suetsugu Metal	19,828	180	- 15
Midland Eng. & Ship.	127,874	232	+ 10	Kanagaki Synth. Ind.	15,476	238	+ 10
Japan Lines	43,862	632	+ 16	Yokohama Rubber	19,071	263	- 8
Sunrise Chemical	42,828	632	- 16		13,577	582	- 16

12 Month										12 Month										12 Month									
High	Low	Stock	Div.	Yld.	P/E	Sic	100s	High	Low	Class	Quate	Ch/gc	Prev.	Close	Div.	Yld.	P/E	Sic	100s	High	Low	Class	Quate	Ch/gc	Prev.	Close			

[illegible]

RISES			FALLS:		
Argyll Gr.	393	+23	Boots	294	+11
Avana	736	+12	Comm. Union	356	+8
BPB Inds.	640	+12	Dew. Warren	239	+37
Barclays	565	+16	Dixons	369	+28
Beecham	530	+14	Egerton Tr.	135	+10
			Fisons	644	+10
			Mag. & South	298	+8
			Manganese Br.	141	+20
			Marler Est.	833	+40
			Mowlem (J.)	436	+18
			Ratners	288	+16
			Reed Int'l	447	+21
			R. Mackintosh	448	+17
			Vickers	510	+15
			Wellcome	406	+38
			BSR Int'l	116	-9
			BP	763	-6
			Ricardo	136	-26

HAND DELIVERY GRONINGEN/THE HAGUE/HAALEM/HEEMSTEDE/
LEIDEN/LEIDERDORP/OEGSTGEEST/
RUJSWIJK/ROTTERDAM/UTRECHT/WASSENAAAR THE
NETHERLANDS

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Continued on Page 39

AMEX COMPOSITE CLOSING PRICES

[illegible]

Continued on Page 37

FINANCIAL TIMES

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

AMERICA

Record jump to new high ground

WALL STREET

FRESH FROM a three-day week-end, buyers poured back into Wall Street yesterday sweeping stock prices to record levels in heavy trading, writes Roderick Oram in New York.

Equity investors were undeterred by the poor performance of credit markets where bond prices fell as much as 1/4 of a point during the morning. Bond trading was light and nervous as the dollar weakened and short-term interest rates firmed in response to a rise in the Fed funds rate. The losses were recouped partially in the afternoon.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose a record number of points in a day, 54.13, to close at 2,837.49, also a record. The previous records were set January 22 and February 5 respectively.

Broader market indices also showed strong gains. The Standard & Poor's 500 added 5.79 points to 285.49 and the New York and American stock exchange composite indices rose 2.82 to 162.49 and by 3 to 319.35 respectively.

NYSE trading volume was heavy at 187.7m with advancing issues outpacing declining by a two-to-one margin. Buying was well distributed with high technology companies and those benefiting from a weaker dollar among those most actively sought. Investors appeared to be buoyed by hopes that the economy is improving and by the market's lack of negative reaction to last week's insider trading disclosures.

Among technology stocks, IBM was up 3 1/2% to \$138. Digital Equipment rose 5 1/4% to \$157. Motorola added 5 1/4% to \$50. Compaq Computer, which unveiled a portable IBM-compatible personal computer, rose 3 1/2% to \$34 on heavy volume. Texas Instruments gained 5 1/4% to \$157 and Cray Research was up 1 1/4% to \$118.

In the takeover arena, Piedmont Aviation, a regional airline, jumped 8 1/4% to \$65 after it agreed to be taken over at \$65 a share by Norfolk Southern, a leading railway, which fell 5% to \$93.

The railway sector was generally ahead despite the prospect of a record initial public offering of 58.75m shares by Consolidated Rail, the government-owned railway, in late March at between \$22 and \$28 a share. Union Pacific rose 1 1/4% to \$76. Burlington Northern gained 1 1/4% to \$66 and Santa Fe Southern Pacific added 5 1/4% to \$33 although CSX eased down 5 1/4% to \$34.

Cyclops, the specialty steel and consumer electronics retailer, jumped 5 1/4% to \$90. It received a \$90 1/4 share takeover counter offer from Dixons, the UK stores group. Audio/Visual Affiliates, a fast growing US retailer, had bid \$80 earlier. It was unchanged at \$7.

RJR Nabisco rose 3 1/4% to \$62. It told securities analysts that it was considering spinning off the group's tobacco interests in a master limited partnership because they were not performing as well as the group's food activities.

Coca-Cola Enterprises added 5 1/4% to \$16. The soft drink bottler, spun off by Coca-Cola in an initial public offering last autumn, reported a profit of \$21m for last year against a loss of \$8m a year earlier and declared an initial quarterly dividend of 14 cents a share.

Northrop, the aerospace group, added 5 1/4% to \$48 despite a sharp fall in profits in the latest quarter to 20 cents a share from 63 cents. Wendy's International, the third largest hamburger chain in the US, slipped 5 1/4% to \$10 after reporting a loss after charges for the year of 5 cents a share.

Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing, up 5 1/4% to \$12, and American Cyanamid, ahead 5 1/4% to \$37, both announced two-for-one stock splits and higher dividends.

In the credit markets, bond prices fell in light and uneasy trading as investors and traders wondered what Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve, would say about the dollar, the US economy and monetary policy tomorrow when he gives his semi-annual testimony to Congress.

The markets remain highly concerned that the recent rise in the Fed funds rate at which banks lend reserves to each other indicates acceptance by the Fed of slightly higher interest rates. The fears were not eased by the Fed's first intervention in the market yesterday for almost the first time in a week when it supplied reserves by making \$2bn of customer repurchases. The rate eased slightly to 6 1/4% per cent from a high of 6 1/2% per cent.

The price of the 7.50 per cent benchmark Treasury long bond finished the day off 1/4 of a point at 98 1/4% at which it yielded 7.59 per cent although at its lowest point during the day, the price was down 1/4 of a point before recovering in the afternoon.

Reflecting the firm Fed funds rate, short term interest rates moved sharply higher in the morning but eased later. The discount rate on three-month Treasury bills, for example, rose 12 basis points to 5.75 per cent before falling back to a gain of only five points yielding 5.63 per cent.

Other holding companies were buoyant on strong London institutional buying. Sofina jumped Bfr 150 to Bfr 12.375, Cobepa firmed Bfr 100 to Bfr 5.400 and Reserve picked up Bfr 55 to Bfr 3.205.

Frankfurt plummeted as many UK investors sold heavily. The Commerzbank index sustained a

boost to London share prices in active trading after a lacklustre start. Most share groups moved ahead although golds eased on drifting world bullion prices.

Dome Petroleum, which refused comment on a report that BP was in talks to buy it, added 10 cents to \$31.4.

Algonia Steel lost 3 1/4% to \$31.04 after reporting a bigger operating loss in 1986. Its parent company Canadian Pacific eased 3 1/4% to \$32.34.

Banks were mainly firmer in advance of the federal government budget today. Most sectors gained in Montreal as the market there also moved higher.

New Zealand sails into storm

THE NEW ZEALAND stock market fell sharply yesterday for the second time this year as the speculative supports that took it to record highs in 1986 continued to crumble, writes Our Market Staff in London.

The Barclays Index of 30 leading shares dropped 99.76 to 3,043.80 as small investors moved to stem their losses.

This was the biggest single day since January 29, when the index plummeted 105.50 and the market is now down around the levels of last August.

Among blue-chip losses, Brierley Investments was down 13 cents to NZ\$3.86, Chase Corp, the property and investment company fell 20 cents to NZ\$5.00 and Fletcher Challenge, the building and farming group, was off 10 cents at NZ\$4.75, all lows for the year.

The market has fallen 22 per cent since November 10 when the index reached a peak of 3,912.93. Analysts date the market's take-off to last spring when financial and property stocks started to rise

on a combination of high liquidity, as in Australia, and a booming property market.

Other sectors fared less well, but the increased weighting of financials and properties in the index gave a distorted picture of the market's strength, analysts say. The index more than doubled last year from a low of 1,954.63 in January 1986.

Private investors then moved into the market in a surge of national fervour over the entry of the New Zealand yacht KZ7 in the America's Cup.

According to Mr Robert Rowntree, an analyst with London stockbrokers Scrimgeour Vickers, the state of the economy failed to provide solid support for the stock market's climb. "Once the speculative bubble burst there was nothing to sustain the market," he said.

Share prices are now falling on warnings that the market has become overvalued when economic fundamentals include an inflation rate of around 18 per cent, short-term interest rates of 20 per cent and an increased budget deficit.

EUROPE

Brussels hits record and Frankfurt falters again

THE GOOD news in Europe yesterday was the convincing record performance in Brussels as foreign institutions bought heavily in anticipation of the new tax scheme; the bad news was the plunge in Frankfurt as many overseas investors viewed with concern the impact of the dollar on German exports.

Brussels rallied on a broad front with brokers attributing the upturn to the government scheme to encourage long-term investment in securities. Hopes of lower interest rates shortly also contributed to the bullish sentiment.

Utilities, the main interest rate barometer, remained firm: Ebes added Bfr 30 to Bfr 5.450 while Intercom held steady at Bfr 4.300.

Among retailers, Delhaize jumped Bfr 100 to Bfr 2.950 and GB-Inno BM closed Bfr 66 higher at Bfr 1.050.

Industrials were mixed with market bellwether Petrofina shedding Bfr 90 to Bfr 9.410 in reaction to the uncertainty in world oil markets. Solvay, however, added Bfr 100 to Bfr 9.080 and UCS at Bfr 9.850 was Bfr 50 ahead.

Groupe Bruxelles Lambert continued to trade uneasily, with a Bfr 45 drop to Bfr 3.365, amid the latest revelations of insider dealing on Wall Street. Its US affiliate Drexel Burnham Lambert is under SEC investigation.

Other holding companies were buoyant on strong London institutional buying. Sofina jumped Bfr 150 to Bfr 12.375, Cobepa firmed Bfr 100 to Bfr 5.400 and Reserve picked up Bfr 55 to Bfr 3.205.

Frankfurt plummeted as many UK investors sold heavily. The Commerzbank index sustained a

LONDON PEAK

OPTIMISM about next month's budget once again drove London shares to all-time peaks yesterday. Institutional and private investors committed funds to most sectors of the market although consumer-related stocks again attracted the largest trade on expectations of lower taxes and interest rates.

The FT-SE 100 share index rose 16.2 to 1,942.0 and the FT ordinary share index gained 10.2 to 1,522.8, both fresh records.

Gills were overshadowed by equities and recorded minimal movements on the day. Details, Page 36

52.3 free-fall to 1,702.6, a 15-month low. Sentiment was soured by Deutsche Bank's regular bourse report which said that a fresh fall in the dollar will pull the market down sharply and prompt more foreign profit-taking from currency gains.

Deutsche Bank led the market down with its DM 17 fall to DM 684.50 and Dresdner gave up DM13 to DM 345 as the so-called Pick Affair, which implicated a former Dresdner chairman, appeared to draw to a close with a series of fines for tax evasion involving former Economics Minister Count Otto Lambsdorff.

Siemens, reflecting the volatile fortunes of issues heavily dependent on exports, retreated DM 13 to DM 636, while Bayer led a softer chemical sector lower with its DM 3.10 fall to DM 282.10.

Bonds were mixed with longs

moving up to 10 basis points. The Bundesbank sold DM 42.3m worth of paper after buying DM 7.8m on Monday.

Paris turned lower on end-month position squaring and poor French economic indicators.

Construction issues eased as the firm trend in domestic interest rates appeared likely to continue. Bouygues dipped FFr 20 to FFr 1,230.

Amsterdam found late inspiration from the opening rally on Wall Street. Internationals advanced with steel group Hoogovens rising FI 1.80 to FI 35.70 in thin trading while Unilever scored a FI 1.30 gain to FI 504.20.

Photocopier group Océ van der Grinten, responding to good nine-month profit figures, added FI 4 to FI 390 while publisher Knipwer, due to report 1986 results early today, was bought FI 3.50 higher to FI 254.50.

Bonds were lower where changed. Zurich was steady on the stable dollar and expectations of good bank results soon.

Milan was hit by heavy overseas selling although late domestic institutional support developed. Stockholm was brightened by Ericsson's results. The telecommunications group rose SKr 7 to SKr 223 on heavy local and foreign buying.

Madrid was led higher by utilities.

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ASIA

NTT prompts turnaround as steels remain firm

TOKYO

THE TOKYO market recovered its strength yesterday when Nippon Telegraph & Telephone (NTT) hit a new high, writes Shigeo Nishizawa in Tokyo.

NTT-related stocks also advanced, while active dealing by institutional investors pushed up large-capital issues, including Kobe Steel and Nippon Steel.

The Nikkei average jumped 106.41 to close at 19,637.93. Turnover expanded from 175m shares on Monday to 1.09m and advances outpaced losses by 446 to 425, with 136 issues unchanged.

After Monday's decline, the dominant view at the start of yesterday's session was that the correction phase would continue for some time. But in the afternoon, when NTT shot up ¥30,000 to ¥1.88m, a rise of ¥20,000 above its previous high, the market mood suddenly changed.

Japan Air Lines (JAL), whose Government-held shares will be sold in the autumn, finished ¥80 higher at ¥14,500. All Nippon Airways (ANA), a publicly held company, also gained ¥40 to ¥1,480.

Brokers' houses, which are expected to enjoy larger commission revenues from the active trading in NTT, were sought by investors too. Nomura Securities advanced ¥90 to ¥3,910 and Daiwa Securities was up ¥50 to ¥2,540.

Some electric power stocks rose, with Tokyo Electric Power closing ¥90 up at ¥7,810 and Kansai Electric Power ¥70 to ¥4,220.

The advance by securities houses encouraged investors to buy banks, which had suffered a steep decline on Monday. Sumitomo Bank and Mitsubishi Bank advanced ¥80 each to ¥3,150 and ¥2,540 respectively while Sanwa Bank rose ¥10 to ¥2,540.

Institutional investors bought large-capital steel and shipbuilding issues. Kobe Steel topped the active list with 144.87m shares changing hands, adding ¥14 to ¥261. Mitsui Engineering & Shipbuilding gained ¥15 to ¥232 on trading of 127.87m shares.

Nippon Steel, which had been the most heavily traded issue for 25 sessions running, dropped to second place with 142.34m shares, its price edging up ¥5 to ¥285. Kawasaki Heavy Industries was ¥8 up at ¥230

and Nippon Kokan ¥8 higher at ¥263.

Stocks related to acquired immune deficiency syndrome (Aids) fell back, apparently because investors grew cautious of their rapid rise. Sumitomo Chemical temporarily gained ¥15 on trading of 42.69m shares but declined later due to increased selling, finishing at ¥832, down ¥18.

Bond prices firmed at one stage on buying by leading securities house dealers. This reflected speculation, which later evaporated, that a Group of Five meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors would take place at the weekend. The yield on the 5 1/2 per cent government bond due in June 1986 rose from 4.780 per cent on Monday to 4.810 per cent, then plunged to 4.775 per cent and closed at 4.775 per cent.

Trading was led by dealers and institutional investors remained on the sidelines.

Elsewhere, Singapore Land lost 15 cents to S\$6.70, Cold Storage retreated 12 cents to S\$3.82 and Singapore Press closed 10 cents off at S\$8.30.

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HONG KONG

LOCAL BUYING determined the record-breaking pace of trading in Hong Kong as foreign investors stayed on the sidelines. The Hang Seng index jumped 26.02 to 2,782.00 on turnover of HK\$1.85bn compared with the previous session's HK\$1.09bn.

Corporate news was relatively scarce although Government data showing a 20.1 per cent surge in industrial production for the third quarter of 1986 boosted sentiment. Chemicals, textiles, consumer electronics, printing and apparel showed the strongest growth.

Bond Corp International resumed trading after its one-day suspension which coincided with the public apology of chairman Alan Bond over misleading comments on the company's net asset value. BCI advanced 5 1/4% to HK\$3.65.

Companies associated with businessman Li Ka-Shing were buoyant on hopes of a major corporate development soon. Cheung Kong firmed 50 cents to HK\$43.50, a new high for the year. Hutchison Whampoa jumped another HK\$1 to a fresh peak of HK\$53.

Several leading blue chips suffered brisk falls although sporadic bargain hunting developed in some sectors.

Multi-Purpose, most active with 5.1m shares traded, shed 8 cents to 94 cents after the dramatic 20 cent surge on Monday. The company admitted that it faced serious cash flow problems and that the board was prepared to take the necessary action to resolve them. A major management reshuffle is rumoured likely.

Public Bank, also active with 2.3m shares changing hands, dipped 3 cents to \$81.85.

UOB managed to post a 10 cent gain to \$84.80 on 2m shares on speculation of an impending management shakeup.

Ten-cent gains were also scored by Genting at \$87.85 and Singapore Airlines at \$810.50, both highs for the year. Genting revealed that it plans to float its non-Malaysian operations on the Hong Kong exchange later this year.

The media sector was busy again on speculation of a bid for John Fairfax, which jumped AS2.30 to AS19.80 after touching an early record of AS20.00 on turnover of 1.7m shares, which represents 1.7 per cent of the group's issued capital.

Bond Corp, which issued an embarrassing public apology over its Hong Kong offshoot, dropped 8 cents to AS2.70 after a 12-cent fall on Monday.

THE RISE in domestic interest rates and the Elders DXL cash call hit Sydney and the All Ordinaries index edged 0.7 lower to 1,573.3 after posting a 5 point gain in the morning.

The interest rate moves followed the larger-than-expected January current account deficit. Trading remained heavy at over 150m shares worth AS254m.

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